

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

APRIL 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 (5th and 19th) by shared lunch.

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

All welcome.

DIARY

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

March

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
We 25 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 26 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Sa 28 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00

May

Th 3 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 6 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Su 13 12.00 **Monthly Meeting** at the Forest of Dean.
Su 13 7.00 **Circle Dancing** (to 9.00)
Mo 14 8.00 **Christians at Work:** "In tune with heaven – a church organist reflects." John Wright, at The Cottages, Leckhampton.
Th 17 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch.

Salvation Army Flower Festival

The Cheltenham Branch of the Salvation Army is holding a Flower Festival from 17th – 20th May in their Hall on Bath Road. They are inviting all the churches to contribute a flower arrangement and I have said we will do so. Could anyone who is willing to help with producing a flower arrangement speak to me please.

Maureen Steffen

Spiritual Adventure Day, Barns Centre, Toddington, Saturday, 19th May 2007, 9.30 – 5.00

Elders and Overseers are arranging a Spiritual Adventure Day for Cheltenham Preparative Meeting, to be held on Saturday, 19th May. It will take place at the Planned Environment Therapy Trust Barns Centre at Toddington, which is run by our Friend, John Cross. The aim of the day is to deepen the spiritual life of our Meeting and to give Friends and Attenders opportunities to meet one another both in ‘those things that are eternal’, and socially

The PETT Centre is in a beautiful location, with lovely grounds and has a peaceful yet lively atmosphere I am sure that we will have a delightful day there together. Lunch will be provided for us, as well as refreshments in the morning and afternoon – so there is a pampering element as well! It is less than 30 minutes from the Centre of Cheltenham. Don’t worry about transport, as car sharing will be arranged nearer the time.

The day will run from 9.30 am to 5.00 pm and will have a variety of mini-workshops, using both creative activities and discussion as well as time for worship and ‘time alone’. A pack is being produced which will provide full details of the programme, including brief descriptions of the activities.

We hope that as many Friends and Attenders will come as possible, especially those who are new to our Meeting. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to get to know people and learn more, experientially, about Quakerism.

The day will cost £10, including lunch and refreshments. Bursaries may be arranged on request. If you would like to come, please book as soon as possible, and give your money to Maureen Steffen (her photo is on the board in the foyer, in case you don’t know who she is!)

Information packs will be available soon from Jo Teakle, so you can think about which activities you would like to take part in. It would be helpful to those planning the day if you could let them know your preferences by returning a slip which will be included in the pack

Please could you also notify Maureen Ward or Jo Jansen at PETT (tel: 01242 621200) about any special requirements you may have, for example diet or accessibility.

We look forward to seeing you all on 19th May.

Jo Teakle

Website

Friends who were present at the January PM will recall that we agreed to obtain an internet domain name for the meeting, and transfer the website (hosted until now within Rowland Carson’s personal webspace) to that domain. The new website is now in place and feedback on it is welcomed. Please point your web browser to:

<http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk>.

As our domain is so new, Google searches will not find the site yet – you need to type in the full address as above.

The new site is an almost-exact copy of the original. If you have thoughts about how it might be changed or improved in its new home, please speak to any member of the Website Committee: Iain Main, June Drummond or Rowland Carson. Rowland Carson

Petition on Global Warming.

Roger Plenty of Stroud Meeting has sent me the address of an organisation that is raising a petition on global warming, and has asked me to make you aware of it. “Feb 15th 2007. From the Economist, print edition.

Electronic activism is stirring a lot of citizens into life, whatever leaders think.

Whatever might unite or divide them, George Bush, Vladimir Putin and the other leaders of the G8 nations will have a fresh topic for small talk, and perhaps serious talk, when they meet in Germany this summer.

They and their underlings will all have been bombarded with emails from every country in the world urging them to take faster action over climate change – in a campaign mounted by Avaaz.org, a new web-based protest movement which aspires to be the biggest and broadest such organisation in a crowded field.” <http://www.avaaz.org/index.php> Chris Robertson

A Campaign for Peace and Survival for us and for Generations to Follow:

Quaker Groups together with some sixty MPs and local politicians have taken part in blockading the Faslane Nuclear Weapons base in Scotland. It is hoped that support for this blockade will continue until the final date at the end of September. Among those arrested were the Green MEPs Caroline Lucas and Jean Lambert. The irony is that they were arrested for breaching the peace by only sitting down in the road to try and stop the stockpiling of 200 nuclear warheads each with a destructive capacity eighteen times greater than the Hiroshima bomb. It is noted that few demonstrators have been charged so it is assumed that the authorities do not want too much press coverage. Full details and other items from Around Europe see the notice board.

Gillian Bailey

Notes from Jo Joy

As Friends may recall from my announcement at a previous Meeting for Worship, my husband Mike has recently gained a qualification in plumbing, and would be happy to assist in any plumbing maintenance and repair work, evenings and weekends.

Jo Joy

Tools for self reliance appeal

One hundred anvils for Africa.

African blacksmiths need anvils at least 24 inches long.

It does not matter if they are dirty or rusty provided the surface is reasonably flat and without cracks. We will arrange collection.

Would you sponsor an anvil at a cost of £150.00?

Philip Paull

NOTES FROM PM

How does the Truth Prosper Among you?

We have been asked by MM to consider the most appropriate way of reporting back to Monthly Meeting on: *How we are prospering as a PM.*

We decided that reports would most usefully be presented in verbal/written form, and this should take place once or twice over a two year period.

Updating the Meeting House:

Having received the views of the ad hoc Premises Improvement Committee we decided that Friends did not at this time appear to embrace change in terms of the main Meeting Room.

It was therefore decided that for the present the chairs, oak table and second settle should revert to their old arrangement.

PM expressed the hope that the informal committee would continue to give its attention to the refurbishment of the Tearoom, the Children's Room and other matters.

Small Children in Meeting:

As we are now delighted to welcome one toddler and two babies as regular attenders at Meeting we decided that in addition to the three Friends who are CRB checked we needed to appoint a further Friend to seek this checking so that a monthly rota could be arranged for support for mothers and children.

We also decided to ask Premises Committee to arrange for sufficient electric plug socket covers and safety catches for the kitchen cupboards to be purchased in order to render them safe for children and crawling babies.

John Cross