

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

SEPTEMBER 2007

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

- Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10:30. There is a growing group of young children attending Meeting, and appropriate facilities are available. Please contact Christine O'Neill if you want further details or would like to discuss matters concerned with Children's Meetings. Fifth Sunday shared lunch. Thursdays, 12:30 to 1:00 Meeting for Worship, followed on First and Third Thursdays (6th and 20th) by shared lunch.
- Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, please 'phone Diana Tovey 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)

August

- Th 23 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 25 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

September

- Su 2 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 3 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Anne Gale on "The Role of a School Governor."
Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 9 12.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Cirencester.
Su 9 7.00 **Circle Dancing** to 9.00
Th 13 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 15 10.00 **"Day of Discovery and Reflection"** at Gloucester Cathedral to 3.00. Details below.
Th 20 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Sa 22 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00
We 26 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 27 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

October

- Mo 1 8.00 **Christians at Work.** Revd. Anne Dowdeswell on "Red Tape and Good intentions!" at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th 4 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 7 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
Th 11 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Th 11 7.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Nailsworth
Sa 13 10.30 **"Friends and the Environment"** at Gloucester FMH.
Su 14 7.00 **Circle Dancing** to 9.00
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Christians at Work. Monday, 3rd September, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church.

The speaker this month is Anne Gale, on “Is there a governor in the house? The role of a school governor. Anne is a member of the congregation at St. Peter’s, and has acted as a parent/governor in both Leckhampton Primary School and Pates Grammar School. Roy Crompton

“Day of Discovery and Reflection” at Gloucester Cathedral, Saturday 15th September.

Bishop Michael has chosen for his theme Christian Saints and Heroes of Gloucestershire. Cost £8.00. For tickets phone Nicky Osborne. The day has been arranged by the Spiritualists Network for Gloucestershire Rosemary Hoggett

“Friends and the Environment” at Gloucester FMH, Saturday, October 13th.

The day will start at 10.30 with coffee, and the first session will be at 11.00. Bring food for a Shared Lunch. Please let Martin Quick, Assistant Monthly Meeting Clerk, know if you intend to come. email: mjquick@talktalk.net. More details will appear on our Notice Board

Rosemary Hoggett

Quaker Council for European Affairs

The Council provides the secretariat for the Intergroup for Peace Initiatives, which is an unofficial cross-party group of MEP’s. It held a successful event on the question of the militarization of the EU’s presence in Afghanistan. The speakers were Dr. M. Baraki, an expert on Afghanistan, and Tim Eestermans of the Asia Task Force of the EU. Several MEPs were there, including Caroline Lucas.

It was thought that NATO had moved from a stabilisation force to a fighting force. It was stated that there is mistrust of the international presence and little successful reconstruction. There is corruption at all levels of government and a growing drug trade mafia, the total destruction of arable land and cessation of production is the key impediment to Afghan recovery post-Taliban.

The EU is now working closely with NATO. In June the EU deployed a task force that consisted of police trainers and law experts as part of a European Security and Defence Policy. This will remain for three years to train Afghan officials, with the goal of addressing police reform from local through to central levels. It was agreed that there is no military solution for Afghanistan, but the NATO force will provide security to allow development to take place. However, the person writing the article (Sophie Miller) said a broader more differentiated approach was required to get away from the military attitudes. Gillian Bailey

New Books for the Library

Swarthmore Lecture 2007: The Meeting House Library has a copy of *Ground and Spring: Foundations of Quaker Discipline* by Beth Allen. The author has worked for Quakers for many years and shares with us her thoughts on the roots of our worship, our practice and our beliefs. In conclusion, she suggests questions for thought and discussion, either for groups or for individual friends.

Consider the Blackbird by Harvey Gillman: We now have a copy of this thought-provoking book in the Meeting House Library. Its subtitle, “Reflections on Spirituality and Language”, hardly does justice to the range covered, but the word “reflections” is well chosen. The author meditates on his own personal journey, from his Jewish upbringing to his work with the Quakers, and his contacts with a variety of faiths and traditions. He reflects on the words we use to describe our feelings, how we make sense of our lives, how we believe and behave, and our feelings about the existence and nature of God. All well worth reading. David Cooper

Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas to end December, 2007

	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
Sept 2	John Cross	Margaret Johnson	Gillian Bailey
9	Dorothy Colwill	Betty Willis	Remola Jane
16	Maralyn Jamieson	Rosemary Hoggett	Jo Joy
23	Roland Carson	Wilma Carson	Christine O'Neill
30	Bill Rowland	Eleanor Pratt	Harold Reeves
Oct 7	Nina Odescachi	Janet Weyers	Nan Dower
14	Ian Brighton	Margaret Sheldrick	Jane Brighton
21	Julie Stubbs	Joy Terrell	Ann Caro
Nov 4	Joy Heaven	Richard Lacock	Jo Teakle
11	Jack and	Margaret Danes	Elaine Boulter
18	Ruth Baker	Lynda Sutcliffe	Jacob & Phillipa Zadeh
25	Carol Scarboro	Cathy Rolls	Brenda Judge
Dec 2	Margaret and	David Cooper	June Drummond
9	Dorothy Colwill	Remola Jane	Bill Madams
23			

Premises Committee Report to Preparative Meeting 3rd June 2007

During 2005 and 2006, we tended to meet as needs were perceived, but since the beginning of 2007, we have been meeting every month. This has the advantage of keeping the agenda reasonably short, and ensuring that items get the time they need for proper consideration.

Ruth Baker has made ad-hoc reports to PM from time to time of various important developments in our relationship with the owners of the former Millennium Restaurant site next door. No serious issues have arisen recently. We hope that the difficulties suffered by Friends in gaining access to the Meeting House during the construction work have diminished and will soon cease. However, we are keeping a close eye on car parking in Warwick Place as it appears that some local residents have been following the example of many building contractors and parking in a way that obstructs access across the footpath to our parking spots.

The law relating to fire precautions has recently changed. Rather than relying on advice from Fire Officers, we must ourselves assess and take action to minimise the risks to all who use the premises. Brian, Philip and I have completed the assessment and the actions identified so far include: ensuring safe storage of all flammables; regular testing of all electrical equipment and wiring; adding residual current protection to the electrical installation; compiling procedures for the event of fire, publicising them and practising their use; altering the fire exit routes to make it safe for wheelchair users and adding automatic smoke and heat detectors to protect the escape route. To ensure that our instructions are correctly prepared, and to help Friends become familiar with them, we will be carrying out a practice evacuation of the building after Meeting for Worship on a Sunday later this year.

The Committee also carry out a regular review of the charges for room hire, which provide an important proportion of Cheltenham Meeting's income, and we try to keep the rates competitive but sufficient to meet the expenses of running the building. Another important responsibility is overseeing any necessary repair, decorative and cleaning work in the building. Most minor items

are dealt with as they arise, but anything involving the fabric of the building or any fixed installation must also be agreed with Monthly Meeting Property and Finance Committee. Recent items include such things as cleaning and re-varnishing the courtyard seats, getting blocked drains cleared, replacing failed batteries in the hearing-aid system, arranging for the piano to be tuned, and responding to PM Minutes on child-proofing and the notice board by the front door.

Ongoing items include: negotiating with various council departments for reinstatement of the sign on Portland Street pointing to the Meeting House; deciding how best to remove graffiti on the Meeting House wall; liaising with the Children's Committee about new floor covering for the lobby and Children's Room; consideration of the provision of plaques giving information about the ashes scattered in the courtyard, and about the Meeting Room table. We are always open to suggestions from Friends about the building and its care. Sometimes it may not be practical to implement new ideas, but it is always useful to have challenges to established thinking.

The present Premises Committee comprises Ruth Baker, Elaine Boulter, Rowland Carson, Jack Danes, Philip Paull, Brian Robson and Kathleen Robson. Friends will be aware of Philip's recent heart attack, and in light of that we seek to reduce his workload (at present the membership database shows him performing nine different functions at PM and MM.) Other members have been serving on the Committee for several triennia. We will be asking Nominations Committee to bring forward at least one or two new names to PM for consideration as Premises Committee appointments. Members of the Committee are not expected to do maintenance or repairs themselves (although some of the present members do serve in that way) but to decide what needs to be done and how it should be accomplished. Technical knowledge or practical skills are of course welcome but not essential. A concern to keep the building safe, pleasant and efficient for all its users is the chief qualification.

Rowland Carson