

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

OCTOBER 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 to find out the time and place, as it varies. **All welcome.**
-

DIARY

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

September

- 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.
Su 30 11.30 **Fifth Sunday speaker** Cynthia Baron on the Quaker former Yugoslavia Project, followed by Shared Lunch

October

- Mo 1 8.00 **Christians at Work.** Revd. Anne Dowdeswell on "Red Tape and Good intentions!" at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church
We 3 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
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
Sa 20 6.00 **Harvest Supper** at FMH. Details below.
Th 25 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 27 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside the main gate, until 3.00

November

- Th 1 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 4 11.30 **Preparative Meeting**
Mo 5 8.00 **Christians at Work:** "A Christian working in science and defence", Dr. Adrian Mears, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church.
We 7 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 8 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 10 2.00 **Monthly Meeting** at Stroud.
Su 11 7.00 **Circle Dancing** to 9.00
Th 15 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Christians at Work: Monday, 1st October at 8.00 at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church.

The talk this month will be “Red Tape and Good Intentions” the Revd. Ann Dowdeswell. Anne worked for five years as a Partnership Officer, working with the Council, police, Primary Care Trust and service providers with local groups and organisations, trying to get “everyone singing from the same hymn book”, with a group of people trying to make a difference to their local community whilst battling with plans and processes of statutory organisations and local government.

Roy Crompton

Harvest Supper, Saturday, 20th October from 6.00 pm at FMH.

Following on from the very successful and much appreciated suppers the Overseers arranged last year, we are planning a Harvest Supper with in-house entertainment to follow. The Overseers will provide the soups and drinks and we hope you will contribute the savouries and desserts. There will be a list posted in the foyer for you to indicate what contribution you prefer to bring. Do put the date in your diary NOW and look forward to what should be a very pleasant social evening.

Margot Roe

Peace Group News

The Peace Group has been supporting the CAAT (Campaign Against Arms Trade) campaign to shut DESO. Defence Export Services Organisation exists to sell arms to companies and to lobby for arms exports within government. DESO is uninhibited by ongoing conflicts, human rights abuses or pressing development needs. It is focussed purely on arms company sales and profits and its position and role within government means that the arms industry's vested interests are relentlessly promoted across government. It employs nearly 500 civil servants in the MOD, placed entirely at the service of arms companies.

As a result of steady campaigning since 1974, by CAAT, Gordon Brown gave a statement on 25th July that DESO is to shut by the end of 2007.

See the yellow notice on the Peace Group notice board. Another proof that a campaign by “ordinary” people can achieve results is that co-ordinated by CAAT which encouraged the prestigious publishing firm (of medical and educational publications) to stop organising arms fairs, a fact unrealised by many until revealed by CAAT.

Reed Elsevier now says that it will no longer organise free international arms fairs.

Cynthia Baron

Addition to the Library

Rabble-Rouser for Peace by John Allen is the authorised biography of Desmond Tutu. A copy has been obtained for the Meeting House Library and is classified as B(iography) 72. Archbishop Tutu is undoubtedly one of the most celebrated and significant characters of our time, and this account of his life is full of interest and detail. Too much so, in fact, for justice to be done to it in a short note such as this, but enjoyable to read and worthy of prolonged study.

David Cooper

Questionnaire

The result of the July Questionnaire, concerning out of Meeting activities, that the Elders invited Friends and Attenders to complete, suggested that there is an interest in reviving the Seekers/Searchers Group.

Some years ago the Group met in the evening once a month, alternately at Elaine Boulter's or Sylvia and Keith Oakey's house.

If you are at all interested in reforming this group at different venues and time, with various topics for discussion, please let us know, and/or come for a cup of tea to 23 Delavale Road, Winchcombe, on Thursday, 11th October at 3.00 pm.

Elaine Boulter, Keith Oakey and Olive Betterton

Sharing and Helping in Cheltenham Meeting

Part of the joy of meeting together in Cheltenham Quaker Meeting is that we can share in out ministry to one another. Unlike other churches, we have no paid clergy; we all share the responsibility for Quaker work. But our ministry does not end with Meeting for Worship, but can extend into the roles which are necessary to ensure Cheltenham Meeting runs smoothly and effectively.

From time to time the Nominations committee are advised of vacancies for various Friends to fill, and it is our responsibility to consider who might be the “right” person for any given role. Roles within the Meeting can vary from an occasional task of a few minutes, to regular commitment and input which requires more regular and consistent attendance at Meetings.

We are very aware of the rich variety of gifts, interests and experience which is brought to Meeting by our fellow Friends, and it has occurred to us that there may be Friends who would like to take a more active role in the Meeting. So, if you have an interest in administration, accounting, advertising, Quaker outreach work, or possibly in supporting and caring for each other within the Meeting, or in a catering and hospitality capacity, or perhaps in general maintenance or practical tasks please do come and make yourself known to one of the Nominations Committee. We encourage you to “let your light shine” (Matt 5:16) and invite you to deepen and grow within the Society of Friends.

The Nominations Committee currently comprises: John Cross, Elaine Boulter, Bill Madams, Jo Joy, Joy Heaven, Iris Terrell. Please see note attached.

Jo Joy

Notes from Cheltenham Local (PM) Quaker Meeting

Fifth Sunday postponement of Corrymeela talk: It had proved impossible to find a speaker from Corrymeela to come to us on 30th September. Dr. Bob Purdie has therefore been invited to come on 30th March. Instead, Cynthia Baron will explain the Quaker former Yugoslavia Project in more detail, and this will be followed by a shared lunch.

Nominations Committee: Nominations Committee brought forward to Area Meeting the names of Dorothy Colwill and Keith Oakey to go forward as Elders. Dorothy Colwill, Bill Madams and Carol Scarboro are standing down as Overseers, for which Nominations Committee is seeking three replacements, as well as two additional members of Premises Committee.

Quaker week – programme and plans: Rowland Carson explained in general terms plans for Quaker Week. The Planning Group are still looking at matters of detail. More volunteers are required for Open Day on Saturday, 29th September. Advertisements will be placed on behalf of Area Meeting in newspapers, and announcements made on radio programmes. Copies of our poster will be provided for everyone in the Meeting for distribution.

In the Meeting House itself there will be the Slavery Exhibition from Nailsworth; items from the Quaker Tapestry and a general publicity panel will be purchased from Friends’ House. A George Fox video will be shown.

Quaker Tapestry materials will be on sale, and outreach material will be available.

John Cross

Quaker Week, 22-30 September

During Quaker Week, 22-30 September, Quakers in the Gloucestershire area will be offering various ways to find out about the Quaker spiritual experience.

Cheltenham: Meeting House (Warwick Place, Portland Street GL52 2NP) Saturday 29th 10:30am - 5:00pm, open day with exhibition & refreshments. www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk

Cirencester: Meeting House (53 Thomas Street GL7 2BA) 01285 652217 Sunday 23rd 12:00noon: 'Non-violent Responses to Violence in South Asia'
Wednesday 26th 7:00pm: 'The Whole Banana: The Diversity of Quaker Belief'
Saturday 29th 7:00pm: Concert of Early Music - The Waites of Gloucester in costume. Donations to Cirencester Housing for Young People (CHYP) Slavery Exhibition: The historic Quaker Meeting House and its peaceful walled garden will be open every afternoon 1:00pm - 4:00pm.
www.newsoffriends.org.uk

Forest of Dean: Exhibition at the Coleford Co-op all week with local Quakers present to answer your questions 10:00am - 12:00noon and 2:00pm - 4:00pm.

Gloucester: Meeting House (Greyfriars, Southgate Street GL1 1TS) 01452 527390 Monday 24th 4:00pm: Tea and talk for staff and pupils of local Secondary Schools Wednesday 26th 7:15pm: Meet the Quakers - Informal Discussion, Tea and Coffee, possibly followed by a short Meeting for Worship.
Friday 28th 10:00am: Meet the Quakers - Coffee Morning and Book Stall Saturday 29th 2:15pm at 1 Pullman Court, Great Western Road: Fabian Society talk: 'Personal Perspectives on the Aftermath of Slavery and Empire'.

Malmesbury: Saturday 29th: Drop-in session throughout the day at the Moravian Church with tea/coffee, cakes & exhibition on Quakers today.
Sunday 30th 10:00am: Ecumenical Meeting for Worship at the Moravian Church; and 10:30am: 'Quakerism Today', followed by light refreshments.

Nailsworth: Meeting House (Chestnut Hill GL6 0RA) Introductory drop-in sessions on Quaker spirituality: Tuesday 25th 6:00pm - 7:00pm, Thursday 27th 10:00am - 11:00am, Saturday 29th 11:00am - 12:00noon. Refreshments provided. 01453 832684

Painswick: Meeting House (Withymead Lane, Vicarage Street GL6 6XS) Saturday 29th 2:00pm: Workshop by and for young people (11-18) 'Working abroad & organising events'; 3:00pm: All-age tea party.

Stroud: Thursday 27th 7:30pm: Introduction to a Quaker Meeting, Questions & Answers, Flat 2, The Castle, Castle Street GL5 2HR

Wotton-under-Edge: Saturday 22nd 9:30am - 11:30am: Open morning with coffee and light refreshments at the Chipping Club Room GL12 7AD
Rowland Carson