

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## JANUARY 2008

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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 (3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>) by shared lunch.
- Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, 4.00pm, alternately at Diana Tovey's and at Joyce Martin's. Please telephone Diane or Joyce to confirm time and venue.
- All welcome.**
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### DIARY

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

#### December

- Su 23 4.00 **Tewkesbury Meeting for Worship** at Joyce Martin's,  
Th 27 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### January

- Th 3 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Su 6 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
Mo 7 8.00 **Christians at Work** Wine and Cheese evening at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church  
Tu 8 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the home of Jacek & Janet Weyers  
We 9 2.00 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.  
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Th 10 2.30 **The Searchers** at Elaine Boulter's. "Learning from Other Faiths"  
Su 13 12.00 **Area Meeting** at Gloucester after Meeting for Worship  
Th 17 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 24 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Sa 26 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00  
Su 27 4.00 **Tewkesbury Meeting for Worship** at Diana Tovey's  
Th 31 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

#### February

- Su 3 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
We 4 2.00 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.  
Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Sa 9 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Cheltenham  
Tu 12 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the home of Jacek & Janet Weyers  
Th 14 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Th 21 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

## **The Searchers, Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> January**

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January at 2.30 pm at Elaine Boulter's home. The topic will be "Learning from Other Faiths"

Keith Oakey

## **"Ecumenical Prayer Group"**

The Ecumenical Prayer Group has been meeting now for seven years with a mixture of Anglicans, Catholics and Quakers and will start a new cycle of meetings from Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> January 2008.

It will be based on Rowan Williams' recent book called "*Silence and Honey Cakes: The Wisdom of the Desert.*" It reflects on such questions as:

*How can we discover the truth about ourselves:*

*How do we live in relationship with others?*

*What does the desert say about our priorities?*

*How can we create a fearless community?*

We share our spiritual insights from the book in Worship sharing style.

We will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month from 10.30 am to 12.00 for about six months at the home of Jacek & Janet Weyers.

New members very welcome at the start of this new cycle. Do come and join our group.

Jacek Weyers

## **The Work and Spiritual Development of Friends until 2014**

In the November edition of the Cheltenham Quaker we were asked to consider priorities for Friends locally and nationally until 2014, and to complete for Meeting for Sufferings a Questionnaire giving our contribution to their deliberations. On 2<sup>nd</sup> December a special Meeting for Worship for Business was held to prepare a record of the discernment of Cheltenham Local Meeting.

We were given eleven areas of important work and asked to make choices between them, recognising that to be effective, the Society cannot spread its resources too thinly, and it must set priorities.

The three areas we considered to be *very important* were:

- Sustaining the spiritual life of meetings
- Developing the confident Quaker voice
- Work in promoting peace.

The three areas we considered to be *important* were:

- Sustainability and the environment
- Poverty, inequality and deprivation
- Interfaith and the inter-church work

We were not allowed to choose more than three areas in each of the above categories. The five areas which we considered to be *less of a priority* for the Society at present were:

- Refugees, asylum seekers and trafficked people
- Criminal justice/prisons
- Young people in our communities
- Civil liberty
- Human rights.

These choices were very difficult, and friends individually may feel led to set different priorities. If so, you can complete the questionnaire yourself online ([www..quaker.org.uk/survey](http://www..quaker.org.uk/survey)) or fill in the paper copy attached to November's Cheltenham Quaker. We are asked to do this by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2007.

Tim Howarth