

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

FEBRUARY 2008

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 (7th and 21st) by shared lunch.
- Tewkesbury:** Fourth Sunday, 4.00pm, alternately at Diana Tovey's and at Joyce Martin's. Please telephone.
All welcome.
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DIARY

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

January

- 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**
Mo 4 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Richard Kerr Wilson, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church
We 6 2.00 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.
Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 7 2.30 **The Searchers** at Keith Oakey's. Topic: "Why I am with the Quakers".
Sa 9 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Cheltenham
Tu 12 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve
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
Sa 23 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00
Su 24 4.00 **Tewkesbury Meeting for Worship** at Joyce Martin's
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

March

- Su 2 11.30 **Local Meeting**
We 5 2.00 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Sa 8 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Cirencester
Tu 11 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve
Th 13 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Th 20 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Christians at Work: Monday 4 February at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

The speaker for this meeting will be Dr. Richard Kerr-Wilson on “Medical moral dilemmas”. Richard has been a consultant gynaecologist in the area for over twenty years, and proposes to discuss some of the ethical dilemmas in medicine today. Roy Crompton

“Face-to-Face, Side-by-Side”

Following the Searchers’ discussion on Interfaith recently, Friends might like to know that the “Face-to-Face, Side-by-Side” new government initiative on interfaith strategy has a website, www.communities.gov.uk. Rowan Williams supports this initiative, and responses to it are welcomed by March 7th, 2008. (This information was in the Friend, Jan 11th Rosemary Hoggett

“Hands Off Iraqi Oil”

Stand in Solidarity with the Iraqi People:

For the Iraqi people, war and occupation have led to hundreds of thousands of deaths, relentless insecurity and crippling poverty. But for foreign oil companies, the desperate situation in Iraq is an opportunity to control Iraq’s oil, and make massive profits at the expense of the Iraqi people.

Oil and Occupation:

Iraq’s oil reserves are the third largest in the world and account for 95% of Iraqi government revenue. Immense pressure has been exerted on the Iraqi government by the US, the UK and the International Monetary Fund to accept foreign investment. As a result, new legislation could give the likes of BP, Shell, Exxon and Chevron contracts to control Iraq’s oil for a generation – depriving ordinary Iraqis of scores of billions of dollars. Shell and BP, with the help of the UK Foreign Office and Treasury have been actively pushing for this law and these contracts since 2003.

It’s Not too Late to Stop Them:

The Iraqi Federation of Oil Unions is at the forefront of grassroots campaigning against the privatisation of Iraq’s oil industry. A recent poll found that 63% of Iraqis believe their oil should be developed and produced by Iraqi public sector companies rather than foreign companies. Who should decide the future of Iraq’s economy and resources? The people of Iraq, or Shell and BP?

What You Can Do:

Join the **Hands Off Iraqi Oil National Day of Action on Saturday, 23 February, 2008**

- *Invite a speaker* to help build for your local action: contact 07749 421576
- *Hold a protest* at your local Shell and BP garages, and inform handsoffiraqioil@gmail.com when you are doing it, so they can help publicise it.
- *Stay informed:* Sign up for email updates about the campaign at the same website, and check the site regularly for briefings, leaflets, posters, stickers and details of actions both in the UK and nationally.

For more details, check www.handsoffiraqioil.org.

Gillian Bailey

NOTES FROM LOCAL PREPARATORY MEETING

The Work and Spiritual Development of Friends until 2014. Record of the Discernment of Cheltenham Local Meeting:

Following the special Meeting for Worship for Business on 2 December, the Record of the Discernment of Cheltenham Local Meeting on this subject had been returned to Friends House by Tim Howarth on behalf of Elders. The Record had been circulated to Friends by way of the Cheltenham Quaker.

Legacy in the name of David Mounsey:

Philip Paull reported that the Meeting had received a legacy of £1000 in the name of David Mounsey. Although no specific conditions were attached in the will, his widow, Sheila Mounsey, had said that it would be his wish that that money be put to the provision of a hearing-loop system for the meeting room. She wishes the balance, if any, to be put towards the improvement of the disabled toilet facilities, as would also be David's wish. Gratitude was expressed for David's remembrance of the Meeting in his legacy.

Nominations:

It had been reported to Nominations Committee that Eleanor Pratt had made known her wish to lay down her Eldership. Nominations Committee will be seeking a replacement.

Slavery: What can Friends do now?

Richard Lacock had asked that our representatives going to the next Area Meeting should acquaint themselves with the issues raised at the QPSW recent conference, as outlined in the attached paper. It was agreed that this would be dealt with by way of seeking a speaker on this topic for a Fifth Sunday.

The Woodbrooke Appeal:

Richard Lacock said Woodbrooke had appealed for funds to extend the activities and facilities of what they hoped would come to be seen as the major Quaker study centre. There was general support for Cheltenham Meeting making a contribution, either by way of a donation from funds, or by the March collection for Woodbrooke being well supported.. However, Philip Paull as Treasurer questioned whether it would be legal for the Meeting to make a donation from its funds, and it was agreed that prior to a decision on this matter being taken, a legal opinion should be sought.

John Cross