

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## APRIL 2008

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### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Cheltenham:** Sundays at 10:30. Children are always welcome in our Sunday meetings for worship. If during the hour parents feel it is appropriate, they can go with them to the children's room, where they will be joined by one of the children's meeting volunteers. 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.

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### DIARY

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

#### March

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 main gate, until 3.00  
Th 27 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### April

We 2 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome  
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** at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Details below  
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Su 13 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Wotton-under-Edge Chipping Rooms  
Su 13 7.00 **Circle Dancing**  
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

#### May

Th 1 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 1 2.30 **The Searchers** at Yacob's house. Topic, "Individual Concerns".  
Su 4 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
We 7 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome  
Th 8 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Sa 10 **Spiritual Adventure Day**, at the Barns Centre, Toddington [details below]  
Su 11 12.00 **Area Meeting** at Staunton Village Hall, Forest of Dean  
Su 11 7.00 **Circle Dancing**  
Mo 12 8.00 **Christians at Work**, "Workplaces in the Bible" at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church  
Th 15 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

## **The Searchers**

Please note that the meeting scheduled for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> April has been cancelled, because it coincides with the meeting called to address the concern about Boarding Schools. Keith Oakey

### **Christians at Work. Monday, 7 April at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton**

The speaker this month will be Michael Kernon on “Chaplaincy in the Fire Service”. Michael started his working life in the Royal Marines, and then joined the Fire Service, where he served in Coventry and Portsmouth before becoming an instructor at the college in Moreton in Marsh. He was baptised and confirmed in the Church of England, but became a Roman Catholic when he married. Roy Crompton

### **Spiritual Adventure Day, 10<sup>th</sup> May, 2008 at the Barns Centre, Toddington**

Elders have arranged a Spiritual Adventure Day to take place at the Planned Environment Therapy Trust Barns Centre, Toddington, on 10<sup>th</sup> May 2008. We are organising an input on the day from “Woodbrooke on the Road”. The proposed topic is “Practising Discernment” with facilitators Diana and John Lampen. The cost for Friends is £12 for the day, including lunch and refreshments. The fee for Woodbrooke on the Road and other costs for the day will be funded through Bess Hazell’s legacy. It would be helpful if Friends wishing to attend this event, or seeking further information, could contact Maureen Steffen or Keith Oakey as soon as possible. Maureen Steffen

### **Message from the Peace Group**

As a Society, Friends have striven continually and faithfully throughout to maintain a corporate witness against all war and violence. We should follow early Quakers, who recognised the realities of evil and conflict, and that it was contrary to the spirit of Christ to have war and violence as a means to deal with them. “True peace cannot be dictated; it can only be built in co-operation between all peoples. None of us, no nation, no citizen, is free from some responsibility.”

Quaker Faith and Practice 24.9 London YM 1943

The Peace Group is, for some of us, one opportunity to explore together some practical ways of living it.

But there are very few who meet regularly and we are conscious of the limitations this imposes on our energy, ideas and actions, and the spiritual ‘underpinning’ needed from the whole Meeting.

We would like to ask Meeting’s help to explore ways to encourage all Friends in their commitment to peace. Cynthia Baron

### **Notes from “Around Europe”**

Quaker Council for European Affairs, February 2008 includes details of a book about the European Parliament which is warmly recommended for anybody who wishes to find out how it works. Simply called “The European Parliament” by Richard Corbett, M.E.P., Francis Jacobs (Environment, Public Health and Consumer Protection) and Dr. M. Shackleton, the book is divided into three sections which cover elections, political groupings and leadership structures, committees, inter-parliamentary delegations etc., the decision making procedures, scrutiny and control instruments. It is written in clear accessible language.

The E.U. member states and the European Parliament have agreed a medium-term financial framework for 2007 to 2013. This is a thorough “root and branch” review. Q.C.E.A. is committed to being part of the consultation and has produced five Briefing Papers which cover different aspects of this process. They can be supplied in print form or by fax. The website is [www.quakers.org/qcea](http://www.quakers.org/qcea). Unfortunately, the deadline for making submissions has now passed.

The European Convention of 2000 has been received and the new Charter covers European social and human rights. Such items as the non-discrimination of disadvantaged groups, children’s rights and sexual orientation are included. This shows that the European Union has recognised the many changes that have taken place within Europe’s societies over recent years. The Charter goes further than some European constitutions. However, the Charter does not go far enough in some areas, for example asylum (“illegal” immigration) and data protection, and a high level of environmental protection and ecological responsibilities are required.

QCEA hopes that the United Kingdom and Poland will accede along with the other European States and thus the E.U. will become a force for human rights. Gillian Bailey

## NOTES FROM LOCAL PREPARATORY MEETING

### **Cheltenham Quaker Meeting Policy for Legacies:**

Following the discussion at the January Local Meeting, a policy for legacies based on Quaker Faith and Practice 14.09 and 14.10, has been drawn up by Tim Howarth and Jacek Wyers, and approved by Philip Paull, the Treasurer. As there can be legal technicalities involved, those contemplating naming the Quakers in their wills are advised to consult Philip Paull, particularly if it were their wish for any legacy to be devoted to a specific Local Meeting purpose.

### **Peace Group: Meeting with Martin Horwood, MP:**

Cynthia Baron with Chris Vyle and Gillian Bailey attended a meeting with Martin Horwood, our MP, on behalf of the Peace Group which took place on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> February 2008. Topics discussed included:

What was happening to the Iraqi people (with statistics)

UKTI (United Kingdom Trade and Investment) which had taken over from the DES organisation (Department of Export Services)

The proposed banning of cluster bombs

Trident weapons

Martin Horwood was interested and supportive, and said he would raise the cluster bomb issue in Parliament,

We thanked the Peace Group for their commitment and energy on our behalf.

### **Modern slavery: what Friends can do now:**

A letter was sent to Martin Horwood MP which was signed by a number of Friends from Cheltenham Quaker Meeting.

John Cross

Though I have enjoyed and appreciated taking responsibility for printing the Quaker Newsletter over the last few years, it has come the time to pass this on to another. As such this is probably the last one I shall be printing. All the best to my successor, and thanks to everyone for regularly reading it,

Tony Browne