

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

MAY 2008

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 (1st and 15th) by shared lunch.

DIARY

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

April

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".
Sa 3 10.00 **"Meditation and Conflict Resolution in Quaker Meetings"** at Painswick FMH
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
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
Th 22 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Sa 24 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00
Th 29 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

June

Su 1 11.30 **Local Meeting**
Mo 2 8.00 **Christians at Work**. "Christianity within Racing": Edward Gillespie, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church
We 4 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.
Th 5 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 5 6.30 **Area Meeting** at Painswick FMH
Su 8 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Th 12 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Th 19 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Meditation and Conflict Resolution in Quaker Meetings, Sat, 3 May, 10.00 – 4.00 at Painswick FMH.

Cost £5.00, to Rosemary Hoggett please.

Rosemary Hoggett

Spiritual Adventure Day, "Practising Discernment", Saturday, 10th May, at the Barns Centre, Toddington. Would anybody wishing to attend who has not yet done so please contact Maureen Steffen or Keith Oakey as soon as possible.

John Cross

Christians at Work. Monday, 12 May at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton

The speaker this month is Revd Paul Wilkinson on "Workplaces in the Bible". It has become an established tradition to have an annual talk by our parish priest, and we again very much look forward to hearing from Paul.

Roy Crompton

"Around Europe", the Newsletter of the Quaker Council for European Affairs

The March edition of "Around Europe" (the newsletter of the Quaker Council for European Affairs) is the 300th edition and covers such issues as:-

- Reforming the Criminal Justice Systems
- Civil Liberties – Reflections on the U.K.
- Conscientious Objection
- The new E.U. Treaty, and
- A poignant account of life in Palestine.

As it is impossible to condense these articles and do them justice, I will photocopy this edition if anybody asks me. I have put a copy on the board as usual. With thanks.

Gillian Bailey

Non-violence Includes Animals

The following is an extract from a speech made by Alan Spinks of Bournemouth Meeting to the International Non Violence Conference in Bethlehem last year.

"When PETA President Ingrid E. Newkirk address the International Non-violence Conference in Bethlehem last year, her speech marked the first time that anyone had ever been invited to discuss the principles of non-violence as they relate to animals, at an international peace conference.

As Quakers, with a Testimony to Peace, this issue is of paramount importance to us. Yet how many Friends, when they think of it and discuss it, apply this to our fellow species?

Ingrid E. Newkirk said, "we call all attacks on civilians, whether against Palestinians in Jenin, or Israelis in Tel Aviv, what they are: war crimes.

If we want an end to violence, it means that we must first reject the slaughterhouse, the animal circus, and animal skins and remember that kindness to animals has been a cornerstone of every great religion in the history of the world.

Mohandas Gandhi, one of the icons of the non-violence movement, taught that how we treat animals shows our ability to empathise with those who are 'different' from us, which is the first step toward living in peace with our human neighbours."

Dorothy Kerwin

Notes from Local Meeting/PM

Quaker Week 2008: suggestions: We recognised that one of our major outreach ventures is the Meeting for Worship held at the Green Belt festival in August. We hope that plenty of Friends will be able to join the Meeting this year. Rowland Carson has a list of those attending regularly, but anyone else wishing to join the group should notify him soon, as he has to apply for passes. Elders are looking at the possibility of expanding what we do at Greenbelt, and are considering a presence in the Peace Tent, and a Meeting for Worship each day. Attempts are being made to involve Britain Yearly Meeting and Young Friends in this event.

A few years ago a group of Elders successfully organised two enquirers' evenings, in the form of an introductory welcome, a short historical introduction to the Society of Friends and an introduction to silent worship, followed by silent worship for about 25 minutes, and then a question and answer session. Refreshments and a bookstall were also provided. We recommended that a similar group be set up to explore the possibility of repeating the event as our contribution to Quaker week, drawing on the experience of those involved in the first event.

Cheltenham Quaker: It was agreed that the Cheltenham Quaker could probably be produced and circulated more economically in the future. Tony Browne has laid down his role in producing the newsletter, and we would send a letter to him thanking him for his efforts. The Meeting owns a laser printer for use by whoever takes over (a volunteer is urgently required!), and Philip Paull could make a desktop pc available if necessary.

It was agreed that a small working group, convened by Margot Roe, be set up to examine possibilities and report back to the next Local Meeting for Worship for Business.

John Cross