

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JUNE 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 (5th and 19th) by shared lunch.

DIARY

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

May

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 2.30 **The Searchers** at Elaine's. Topic, "A Thomas Text Taster".
Th 5 6.30 **Area Meeting** at Painswick FMH
Sa 7 **"The Voice of God's calling"**, a Quiet Day organised by the SNG [Details below]
Su 8 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Th 12 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 14 6.30 **Midsummer Supper** at FMH. Details below.
Th 19 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 26 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Sa 28 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00

July

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.** "Ordination Training – a work in progress?" Brian Dunlop at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Sa 12 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Nailsworth FMH
Su 13 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Th 17 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

"The Voice of God's calling", Saturday, 7th June

A quiet day organised by the Spirituality Network for Gloucestershire, at Icomb Place, Near Bourton on the Water led by the Rev. Michael and the Rev. Sharon Simpson. Cost £8. To book contact Mrs. Rachel Willard (phone number available from Rosemary). Bring a packed lunch. Drinks are provided.

Rosemary Hoggett

Midsummer Supper, Saturday, 14th June from 6.30 to 9.00

Following our two previous successful suppers the Overseers are organising a Bring and Share supper at the Meeting House. Hopefully if the weather is kind we can enjoy an outdoor picnic. There will be a list on the notice board for you to sign for savoury and dessert contributions. Noting that at our last supper we had a surplus of some savoury items which, once opened, had to be thrown away, we are listing food suggestions for the savouries. Surplus desserts are usually happily consumed at coffee time following the Meeting for Worship on the Sunday. You may of course ignore the suggestions – they are only that.

We do hope as many of you as possible will come and make the evening a rip-roaring success.

Margot Roe

Spiritual Adventure Day on Saturday 10th May

The Woodbrooke-on-the-road day at the Barns Centre, Toddington, was felt to be a great success. We were blessed with a lovely warm, sunny day and were able to enjoy the spacious and leafy grounds. There were 28 of us, and John and Diana Lampen led us on the subject of Discernment.

It was good to have a mix of new attenders with people who have been in our Meeting for many years. It gave the opportunity for us to get to know each other better in an informal way, both by having chats in the garden and at the meal table as we enjoyed the excellent food.

We haven't yet had time to get feedback from those present but my only criticism would be more time could have been allowed when we broke up into groups. We ended a worthwhile day with tea and cakes.

Maureen Steffen

During the course of the day, the facilitators, Diana and John Lampen, asked us to rank the following pieces of guidance for Meeting for Worship for Business into several categories by importance:

Have faith that we can indeed be guided and that every person can be a channel for the Light.
Take time to discover where you can contribute to the discussion: be prepared to change your perspective on the issue.
Express your view clearly once, and do not repeat it later in the discussion
While the matter is being considered, give space to Friends who have not yet spoken
Allow a pause between each speaker and wait to speak till the Clerk calls you
Avoid lobbying, threats, manipulation and adverse personal comments in the Meeting for Business – before and after it
Don't be afraid of disagreement – but express it gently yourself and accept opposition as part of the search for a guided decision
If you were not present, do not challenge the decisions made in a Meeting for Worship for Business
Use periods of silence and prayer if the discussion gets contentious or polarised.

We did the exercise in three groups; all three ranked the first one as most important, and there were one or two correspondences in the other three or four ranks. The exact ranking was not important – discussing the list was helpful as a springboard to consider aids and hindrances to discernment. For me it showed how easily we can forget good practice. Perhaps we should have one of the “advices” from this list read out at each business meeting as a reminder of the important aspects of our Quaker Business Method.

Rowland Carson

Notes from Local Meeting (PM)

Greenbelt Festival: Richard Lacock reported on Elders' discussion about how we could to enhance the Quaker presence at the Greenbelt Festival in August. We agreed that there were sufficient volunteers to hold an extra Meeting for Worship on Saturday, 23rd August, with a mid-morning meeting being preferred.

Cheltenham Quaker: New circulation procedure: Margot Roe reported on the new procedure for circulating Cheltenham Quaker news. Those who receive the Newsletter will be asked to opt between email and printed versions. We will write to those who currently receive the Newsletter by post asking if they wish this to continue. John Cross agreed to continue to edit and print hard copies for the time being. Friends are asked to let Rowland Carson or Philip Paull know if their email address is changed, or if they acquire one. Please see attachment

ICAHD (Israeli Committee against House Demolition) Appeal: Rolfe Evans of Hartington Grove Local Meeting in Cambridge wrote seeking support for the ICAHD. This is a non-violent direct action group and one of the leading Israeli peace and human rights organisations. Since 1997 it has worked to end the occupation and in particular its most cruel expression – the demolition of Palestinian homes. On June 11, 2007, the ICAHD UK, together with ICAHD USA, launched a campaign to rebuild every Palestinian home demolished by Israeli bulldozers in this, the 41st year of Israeli occupation. Its immediate aims are: **Build biyut sumud – “houses of steadfastness”;** **Resist Israeli policies of transfer and control;** **Achieve a just peace.** We agreed to hold special collections for ICAHD on the first two Sundays in June.

John Cross

NEWSLETTERS

We thank Tony Browne for the many years he has printed *Cheltenham Quaker*. This arrangement is now coming to an end. Since many people are on email, it would save both paper and postage costs if as many as possible could receive their newsletter in this way in future. We understand that some will still wish to receive a paper copy.

Please complete the slip below and return it **by 1 July** addressed to the Overseers at FMH, Warwick Place, Portland St, Cheltenham GL52 2NP. Alternatively you can sign the form on the noticeboard in the Meeting House, or contact an Overseer directly (our individual contact details can be found in the Meeting address list). If we have not heard from you by 1 July, we will assume you no longer wish to receive the newsletter in either format. You can change your decision at any time; just let any Overseer know. Thank you in advance.

In friendship,
Overseers

Name/s:

Please tick as appropriate:

I/we would like to receive/continue accessing the newsletter online.

Please confirm email address:

I/we would like to receive/continue receiving my newsletter on paper.

I/we no longer wish to receive a newsletter.