

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

SEPTEMBER 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 (4th and 18th) by shared lunch.

DIARY

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

August

Sa 22 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00.

Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

Su 31 11.30 **Local Meeting**, followed by Shared Lunch

September

We 3 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome

Th 4 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Th 4 2.30 **Searchers** at Dorothy Colwill's home. Topic: "Thomas, again".

Mo 8 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Details below

Tu 9 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at The White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve

Th 11 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

Sa 13 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Stroud Whiteway Colony Hall

Su 14 7.00 **Circle Dancing**

Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Su 21 11.30 **Meeting for Learning**, 'Quaker Testimonies', an introduction led by Dorothy Colwill and Maureen Steffen

Th 25 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

Sa 27 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00

October

We 1 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome

Th 2 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Su 5 11.30 **Local Meeting**

Mo 6 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Speaker Peter Gardner.

Th 9 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

Th 9 7.00 **Area Meeting** at Nailsworth FMH

Su 12 7.00 **Circle Dancing**

Tu 14 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve

Th 16 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour followed by Shared Lunch

Christians at Work, Monday, 8th September at 8.00 at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church

This month's speaker will be Jeff Smallwood on "A Mosaic Career". Jeff served for eleven years as a Royal Navy officer and has worked in the private sector, the arts and the public sector. He is currently General Manager of an Environmental Consultancy. He will talk about his varied career, with some observations on how this has related to his personal spiritual journey. Roy Crompton

Meetings for Learning

Elders are planning a resumption of the Meetings for Learning to be held on the third Sunday after Meeting for Worship. We are going to be considering the Quaker Testimonies.

Dorothy Colwill and Maureen Steffen will take as their subject "An Introduction to Quaker Testimonies" on Sunday, 21st September. We hope this will be an interesting and stimulating opportunity for everyone to take part. Maureen Steffen

Car Parking on Sundays in Warwick Place

Access to the wheelchair entrance and to the three off-street parking spaces on our property has been blocked on Sundays by people attending the Meeting. Those parking spaces are reserved for friends who are disabled, or who have small children with them. If a disabled friend has to park on the double yellow lines he or she should display their disabled pass, and be prepared to release cars which their vehicle prevents from leaving. We have a parking situation which is difficult for us all, so consideration for those most in need is essential. Premises Committee

Sharing and helping in Cheltenham Meeting

Dear Friends, We are approaching the end (December) of the current Triennium, when those holding the various appointments in Local and Area Quaker Meetings stand down or are re-appointed. Fortunately, a number of Cheltenham Friends have been appointed partway through the Triennium, and will be "staying on". Your Nominations Committee by the end of the year need to have all the appointments or re-appointments in place, and I hope you will understand why I am attaching the note Jo Joy wrote for the October Cheltenham Quaker of last year. I share with you the thought that Nominations received only one response on that occasion.

"Part of the joy of meeting together in Cheltenham Quaker Meeting is that we can share in our ministry to one another. Unlike other churches, we have no paid clergy; we all share the responsibility for Quaker work. But our ministry does not end with Meeting for Worship, but can extend into the roles which are necessary to ensure Cheltenham Meeting runs smoothly and effectively.

From time to time the Nominations Committee has the responsibility to consider tenderly who might be the "right" person for any given role. Roles within the Meeting can vary from an occasional task of a few minutes, to regular commitment and input which requires more regular and consistent attendance at Meetings.

We are very aware of the rich variety of gifts, interests and experience which is brought to Meeting by our fellow Friends, and it has occurred to us that there may be Friends who would like to take a more active role in the Meeting. So, if you have an interest in administration, accounting, advertising, Quaker outreach work, or possibly in supporting and caring for each other within the Meeting, or in a catering and hospitality capacity, or perhaps in general maintenance or practical tasks please do come and make yourself known to one of the Nominations Committee. We encourage you to "let your light shine" (Matt 5:16) and invite you to deepen and grow within the Society of Friends."

One particular appointment I would like Friends to consider: after many years, Philip Paull, who does so much for our Meeting, is laying down the post of Treasurer, though he continues to hold the office of Area Meeting Treasurer. We would very much like for any Friend who felt this was possibly a way in which they could serve to make themselves known to Nominations. If you are reasonably computer literate it is a much less difficult and onerous undertaking than you might imagine, and there are a number of Assistant Treasurers so it is an endeavour that is shared.

What you could do now.

If after giving thought to our “**Sharing and Helping in Cheltenham Meeting**”, you feel you would like to carry forward the possibility of serving the Meeting in some way, and are free to do so either in the next six to twelve months or sometime in the future, please do complete the slip below and hand it to Nominations Committee. You may not be invited to do anything immediately, but it would help us enormously to know the sort of thing you might feel happy to do.

Of course, you will want to know exactly what you’re in for – how much time might be involved in any particular role, what precisely you’d have to do, and indeed what you might find enjoyable – if you were to offer yourself. So please don’t hesitate to ask for more information from the Meeting Clerk or members of the Nominations Committee.

John Cross

IF YOU FEEL IT HELPFUL, PLEASE HAND OR SEND THIS TO A MEMBER OF NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE, Elaine Boulter, John Cross, Joy Heaven, Bill Madams and Iris Terrell

My name

I’m interested in (*eg a particular job, or a particular area of work*)

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.....

I’d like to know a little more about

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.....

I have some experience in (*don’t feel you have to answer this one – you don’t have to have any experience for most roles*)

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I’d be free to serve quite soon/later