

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

OCTOBER 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 (2nd and 16th) by shared lunch.

DIARY

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

September

Su 21 (after MfW & tea) **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
Th 2 2.30 **The Searchers** at FMH. All welcome. Details Below
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
Su 19 (after MfW & tea) **Meeting for Learning**. "Quaker Testimonies" led by Tim Howarth and Keith Oakey
Th 23 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Sa 25 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

November

Su 2 11.30 **Local Meeting**
Mo 3 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Speaker Bishop Patrick Harris on "Bishop's Business"
We 5 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome
Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 9 12.00 **Area Meeting** at Cirencester FMH. (Meeting for Worship at 10.30)
Su 9 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
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.
Su 16 (after MfW & tea) **Meeting for Learning**. "Our Quaker Testimonies"
Th 20 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch.

The Searchers, Thursday 2nd October at 2.30 pm at FMH

This meeting will be special in that Hugh Ross of Painswick Meeting will be with us to share his enthusiasm for and knowledge of the Gospel of Thomas.

Some Friends will remember an exposition on this subject by Hugh about ten years ago, which was historically fascinating and spiritually challenging.

This is a good time to remind Friends that the Searchers meetings are always open to all Friends, who are all very welcome.

Keith Oakey

Christians at Work, Monday 6th October at 8.00 at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church

The speaker this month will be Peter Gardner on "The privilege of headship in a church school." Peter is a native of Gloucestershire, who has been a Trustee and International Education Adviser for a charity, (Community Partners Association) working in the Dominican Republic. After periods spent in varied school settings, he was appointed to the headship of Leckhampton C.E. Primary School in 1986.

Roy Crompton

Notes from Local Meeting:

Nominations Committee: It was reported that because of her continuing ill health Joy Heaven has felt it right for the time being for her to lay down her role as Meeting Correspondent and as a member of Nominations Committee, and was thanked for her work. We are still seeking two overseers and two members of Nominations Committee, and in connection with the next Triennium appointments commencing in January 2009, John Cross drew Friends' attention to the paragraph in September's Cheltenham Quaker relating to sharing and helping in Quaker Meeting, and encouraged all Friends to offer themselves for consideration for positions. Members of the Nominations Committee and the Elders and Overseers will be only too pleased to talk to Friends and Attenders about this.

Request for Withdrawal of funds: The Treasurer, Philip Paull, needs to withdraw £8350, currently held by BYM as an interest free loan, in order for our Meeting to make a grant of this whole amount to Area Meeting towards the upgrading of toilet facilities in our Meeting House for wheelchair users. The total cost to be borne by Area Meeting will exceed £20,000. This was agreed.

Scattering of Ashes in Meeting House Garden: Premises committee wanted Friends to be aware that already one person's ashes have been scattered beneath the courtyard birch tree, which incidentally is covered by a Preservation Order, and another person has expressed a wish to do the same. Premises Committee also proposed to erect a plaque in the lobby which would record the names of those whose ashes have been scattered under the tree, and this was agreed.

Greenbelt Festival: Meetings for Worship were held on Saturday at 12.30 and on Sunday at 9.00 am. More than 100 people attended, including Friends from other Meetings, and we thanked Rowland Carson for all his work in organising this event.

The success of the venture may encourage us to strengthen our presence at Greenbelt next year by holding Meetings for Worship every day. The importance of allowing time for questions and discussion after each Meeting for Worship should be stressed to the organisers, and wider publicity within Area Meeting should be encouraged: a generous allocation of wristbands for the whole weekend is a considerable incentive.

Since we have just engaged in this well attended outreach activity at Greenbelt, Elders for the time being are not planning to take on organising and running special events for Quaker Week or Enquirers evenings, and it was agreed that other outreach work was something which we should consider in the New Year.

John Cross