

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## DECEMBER 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 (4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) by shared lunch.

### DIARY

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

#### November

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.  
Su 30 12.00 **Workshop on Preparation of Report** (Details under Notes from Local Meeting), followed by Shared Lunch.

#### December

Mo 1 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Speaker: Revd. Sandra Miller on "Marketing to Mission"  
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 **The Searchers** at FMH. Subject: "How is Christmas relevant to Quakers?"  
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  
Su 14 7.00 **Circle Dancing**  
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Su 21 6.00 **Carols and Readings** at FMH until 8.00. Details below  
Th 25 **Meeting for Worship.** Details below.  
Sa 27 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00

#### January

Th 1 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
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  
Su 11 12.00 **Area Meeting** at Gloucester FMH  
Su 11 7.00 **Circle Dancing**  
Tu 13 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve  
Th 15 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

### Carols and Readings at FMH, Sunday, 21<sup>st</sup> December, 6.00 – 8.00

The usual celebration with carols and readings will take place on Sunday, 21 December from 6 to 8 pm.  
Maureen Steffen and Margot Roe

### **Christmas Day Meeting for Worship**

The Meeting House will be open for a half hour Meeting for Worship on 25 December if people wish. A sign up sheet will be posted on the Notice Board, and the group will then make its own arrangements for opening the Meeting House. The usual 12.30 Thursday Meeting for Worship will not take place.

John Cross

### **Christians at Work, Monday, 1<sup>st</sup> December at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church**

The speaker this month is Revd Dr Sandra Millar on "Marketing, Mission and Ministry: a Life in Products." Sandra spent most of her childhood in a village shop, and went on to work in retail marketing. On being made redundant in 1992 she went back to university and took a doctorate in adult learning, following which she worked for an international mission agency, training people all over the world. In 2000 she was ordained, and since July last year has been a member of the clergy team at St. Peter's.

Roy Crompton

### **Launching the Next Generation of QPSW Peaceworkers**

Each year QPSW trains a team of "peaceworkers" to work with a range of peace organisations.

Last year the Peace Group with the help of Meeting supported and raised money for the Quaker Peaceworkers helping to build peace in the post-Yugoslav countries.

The new appeal for the trained team of peaceworkers has nine peacemaker placements, clustered into three groups.

QPSW would like each Meeting to choose and support one of the groups.

The three groups are to:

1. Rebuild Societies in Serbia (1 peacemaker) and Burundi (1 peacemaker)
2. Strengthen peace in the U.K. serving four different organisations
  - a) Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT)
  - b) Campaign Against Depleted Uranium (CADU)
  - c) St. Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace
  - d) Peace Child International

Each has appointed one peacemaker

3. Promote dialogue at QUNO (2 peacemakers)

A poster will be displayed and more details given after Meeting and at Local Meeting. Details are also in Quaker News No 6 pages 4 and 5.

Cynthia Baron

### **Notes from Local Meeting:**

Local Meeting Treasurer: We are delighted that Ruth Brinkman has agreed to accept nomination as Local Meeting Treasurer. Philip Paull will act as Assistant Treasurer for one year in order to induct her into the system.

Premises Committee Report: Rowland Carson presented the Report of the Premises Committee. The present Committee comprises Ruth Baker, Elaine Boulter, Rowland Carson, Jack Danes, Keith Oakey, Philip Paull, Brian Robson and Kathleen Robson, with Rowland acting as convener. Some of these have been serving for several triennia, and may wish to lay down their duties at the end of the present triennium. Members of the Committee are not expected to do maintenance or repairs themselves (although some of the present members choose to serve in that way) but rather to consider what needs to be done and how it may best be accomplished. Technical knowledge or practical skills are of course welcome, but not essential. A concern to keep the

building safe, pleasant and efficient, both for Friends and for all its other users, is the chief qualification.

As well as several smaller projects, such as replacing carpet tiles and curtains and putting up “No Smoking” signs, the wheelchair access ramp was modified to provide a shallower slope, and the women’s toilets have been rebuilt to provide proper wheelchair access. One sad note is that the developers building the new flats adjacent to the Meeting House have gone into administration, so will not be making good our boundary, and we are also in correspondence with various council officials about the repair to the Portland Street sign pointing to the Meeting House.

We thanked Rowland and the Committee for all their work, and thanks were also extended to Lena and Steve Fowles for their excellent caretaking, involving about six hours a week. Steve also voluntarily sets out the chairs for Sunday Meeting for Worship

How does the Truth Prosper Amongst You? In looking at preparing the report to go to the Area Meeting in February 2009, we agreed that this should represent the views of all Friends and Attenders as far as possible. We will be asking Elders, Overseers and others convening groups to outline what they would wish to include in the formal report. We agreed that it was important to look at our problems and shortcomings as well as our achievements, in order to think clearly about how we might overcome them, and seek the advice of Area Meeting where appropriate.

We would use the 30<sup>th</sup> November (5<sup>th</sup> Sunday) for a general discussion about what we might include and how we might present ourselves as a Meeting. This workshop will be followed by a Shared Lunch.

Wheelchairs for Mauritania: Hertford and Hitchin Area Meeting brought to our notice work being done to make appropriately designed wheelchairs available through the Diapalante project. There are about 200,000 physically disabled people in Mauritania, and wheelchairs etc. are extremely scarce. A donation of £77 would send a wheelchair to Mauritania. We agreed that the proceeds of the Autumn Supper on 8 November 2008 would be forwarded to the charity.

John

Cross