

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JANUARY 2009

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)

December

Sa 20 6.00 **Carols and Readings** at FMH until 8.00. Details below
Th 25 **Meeting for Worship.**
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
Th 1 2.30 **Searchers** at Iris Terrell's. Topic: "New beginnings"
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
Th 15 3.00 **Bible Study Group.** At Eleanor Pratt's. Focus will be the prophet Hosea
Su 18 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** "Quaker Testimonies", led by Dennis Mitchell on "Sustainability"
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.

February

Su 1 11.30 **Local Meeting**
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
Sa 7 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Cheltenham FMH
Su 8 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Tu 10 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve
Th 12 12.30 **Thursday Worship**
Su 15 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** "Quaker Testimonies", led by Ann Caro
Th 19 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch.

Carols and Readings at FMH, changed from Sunday to Saturday, 20th December, 6.00 – 8.00

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

Woodbrooke Weekend, May 2009

Elders have arranged a weekend in May 2009, when we can go as a Meeting to Woodbrooke, which is a Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham.

The date is from Friday evening, 15th May, until Sunday afternoon of 17th May. There are places for 35 participants, and the cost will be £158 per person, or £168 en suite. There are single rooms available.

Subjects suggested are:

- Enjoying our differences
- Experiencing God
- Practising Prayerfulness.

There will also be Quaker activities/games.

Jeremy Steffen

HOW DOES THE TRUTH PROSPER AMONGST YOU?

A good number of f/Friends met together after Meeting for Worship on 29 November (5th Sunday) so that we could begin to explore our feelings and perceptions about what we appreciated about Cheltenham Quaker Meeting, and whether there were aspects of our community which might be different.

Amongst the positive feelings expressed were:

- our Meetings for Worship can be inspirational
- the warmth of the welcome that we receive, particularly as newcomers
- a sense of community, of family
- moments of calm in an otherwise fairly frantic existence
- friendliness and acceptance
- respect for difference
- diversity + unity (an area which we perhaps need to explore more closely)
- a sense of “rightness”
- people feel comfortable to talk about spiritual matters
- sharing aspects of our spiritual lives
- the Quaker ethos can help to change both views and behaviour (e.g. re social awareness)
- the Testimonies
- that there is a process which ensures things get done (notion of faithful servants)
- inclusion and equality
- the power of the Quaker business method

We then looked at things which might be done differently, or could be improved upon:

- how might we engage more with younger people?
- we need to concentrate more on worship and to consider the meaning of “Ministry”. More formality e.g. referring to “our friend” rather than to individuals could help.
- we need more time for talking relatively informally about spiritual matters
- residential weekends are welcomed, but there needs to be more feedback into Meeting.
- to what extent are we prepared to embrace change?
- we need to give more overt spiritual support to activities such as those of the Peace Group
- more outreach is needed to make our presence in Cheltenham more obvious to people who might want to try us out.
- are we a bit too “nice”? do we need more energy?

Conclusions

Obviously we did not have enough time to discuss all these points in any depth. But we were agreed on a fundamental reality – that worship, and Meeting for Worship is and must be central to everything we do. We also moved some way to setting up more spiritual discussion time, perhaps once a month after Meeting for Worship.

Next step

The following areas of our community activities need to be briefly reviewed by the persons or groups concerned. It would be good if this could be completed by mid January at the latest, and emailed to me. Successes need to be stated, and also any key areas for future development.

Elders (to include our educational activities and outreach)

Overseers

Premises

Children

Lettings

Social

Peace group

Study groups

Ann Caro

Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas December 2008 – April 2009

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
Dec 7th	John Cross	Margaret Johnson	Gillian Bailey
Dec 14 th	Keith Oakey	Nan Dower	Nan Dower
Dec 21 st	Marilyn Jamieson	Rosemary Hoggett	Jo Joy
Dec 28 th	Wilma Carson	Eleanor Pratt	Rowland Carson
Jan 4 th	Bill Rowland	Janet Weyers	Harold Reeves
Jan 11 th	Julie Stubbs	Margaret Sheldrick	Dorothy Colwill
Jan 18 th	Jo Teakle	Christine O'Neil	Iris Terrell
Jan 25 th	Jane Brighton	Richard Laycock	Ian Brighton
Feb 1 st	Joy Heaven	Nan Dower	Nan Dower
Feb 8 th	Jack and	Margaret Danes	Tim Howarth
Feb 15 th	Elaine Boulter	Maureen and	Jeremy Steffen
Feb 22 nd	Brenda Judge	Lydia Sutcliffe	Margo Roe
March 1 st	Denis Mitchell	Philip Paull	Jo Teakle
March 8th	Margaret and	David Cooper	Nina Odescalchi
March 15 th	Richard Laycock	Cathy Rolls	Frances Bond
March 22 nd	Chris Vyle	Ann Caro	Jill Vyle
March 29th	Steve Fowles	Margaret Sheldrick	Dorothy Colwill
April 5 th	Julie Stubbs	Nan Dower	Nan Dower

If a date is not convenient to you please arrange to swap with someone else on the list or contact Nan Dower.

Doorkeepers, you will need to arrive just after 10 am. Please read the list of instructions which is in the wooden rack on the wall by the door into the garden.

Teamakers, Please bring milk and biscuits, you will need 2 pints of milk; there is a shop which is open in Winchcombe Street. Lay out cups and saucers and preheat the water before Meeting. Please take your expenses from the dish for contributions.