

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## FEBRUARY 2009

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### 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 (5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup>) by shared lunch.

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### DIARY

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

#### January

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**  
Mo 2 8.00 **Christians at Work;** Rev. Nigel Scotland on "The challenge of New Religious Movements", 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 **Searchers** at Dorothy Colwill's. Details Below  
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.  
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

#### March

Su 1 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
Mo 2 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Chris Barrel on "How the other half lives – reflections on the time spent with the people of Monza, Zambia", 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  
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** for half an hour.  
Sa 14 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Cirencester FMH  
Su 15 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** "Quaker Testimonies"  
Th 19 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

## **Christians at Work, Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> February at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church**

The speaker this month will be Dr. Nigel Scotland, on "The challenge of new religious movements." Nigel was Field Chair in Theology and Religious Studies at the University of Gloucestershire, and is now a Research Fellow there, as well as teaching Church History at Trinity College, Bristol. He has had a number of books published, and currently preaches at a wide range of churches throughout the Diocese.

Roy Crompton

## **The Searchers**

The next Searchers meeting will be on Thursday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at Dorothy Colwill's home. The topic will be "Dilemmas of pacifism", e.g. QF & P starting at para.24.21. However, from now on, we will not start on the posted topic until we have explored anything at the top of our minds such as world events, the last Meeting for Worship, etc.

Our meetings are informal and, as always, open to all.

Keith Oakey

## **Notes from Local Meeting**

Triennium Appointments/Review: It was reported that Nominations Committee is working through the list of appointments for Cheltenham Local Meeting. Additional elders and overseers, people to serve on Nominations and Premises Committee, and someone responsible for Meeting House lettings are being sought.

How does the Truth prosper amongst you?: Ann Caro outlined further preparation for this report, which we shall give to Area Meeting in February. It was agreed that the following groups should prepare a brief report of their activities, and an assessment of their development needs for the future:

Elders; Overseers; Nominations; Children; Premises and Lettings; Peace Group; Searchers; Bible Study; Support for Yearly Meeting.

These reports should be submitted to the Clerk by email no later than 18<sup>th</sup> January to allow the report to be collated for presentation to Local Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> February. The Clerk will prepare a general account, looking particularly at the points raised in the Workshop in November. She will also present the reports of the various groups, and a full written report will be submitted to Area Meeting.

Woodbrooke Weekend May 2009: Maureen Steffen outlined the planning so far for the Woodbrooke Weekend, 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> May, 2009. Woodbrooke have already suggested such topics as: *Enjoying our Differences*, *Experiencing God* and *Practising Prayerfulness*.

The organisers will meet with a representative from Woodbrooke to see how far we can incorporate some of the ideas generated at the Workshop in November.

Outreach: Making use of the Gloucestershire Echo regularly to publicise Cheltenham Quakers: Tim Howarth has established contact with the Echo to ensure that news of Cheltenham Quaker worship and appropriate activities is included. Christine O'Neill has been appointed to take this on, and will discuss content and wording with Tim Howarth.

Informal Discussion following Meeting for Worship: It was agreed to experiment with encouraging small groups of people to remain in the Meeting Room for a short time after Meeting for Worship to discuss issues which may have surfaced for individuals during Meeting. This will begin on 11<sup>th</sup> January.

John Cross