

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

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

DIARY

(ALL OF THESE MEETINGS AT THE FMH UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

March

Th 19 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
Su 29 12.00 **Meeting** to celebrate the life of Peter Hazell, followed by Shared Lunch

April

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 **Searchers** at FMH. Title: "Mortality".
Su 5 11.30 **Local Meeting**
Th 9 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Su 12 2.00 **Area Meeting** at the Chipping Club Room, Wotton under Edge
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 12.00 **Meeting for Learning** led by Jacek Weyers. Review of Meetings over the last six months on "our Testimonies".
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
Sa 25 6.00 **Spring Supper** at FMH.
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

May

Su 3 11.30 **Local Meeting**
We 6 2.30 **Peace Group** at FMH. All welcome.
Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 10 12.00 **Area Meeting** in the Forest of Dean, Staunton Village Hall.
Su 10 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Mo 11 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Glebe Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Paul Wilkinson on "Workplaces in the Bible".
Tu 12 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve.
Th 14 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour
Fr 15 **Woodbrooke Weekend** until Sunday 17th.
Th 21 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch.

Meeting for Worship at Greenbelt Festival – do you want to be involved?

Most of you will know about the Meeting for Worship that Cheltenham Meeting have held for some years at the Greenbelt Christian Arts Festival.

Last year for the first time we held two Meetings (Sat and Sun) and were very heartened by the response to them.

In 2009 we propose to hold a Meeting on each of the four days of the Festival (28, 29, 30, 31 August). However, that may stretch the resources of Cheltenham Friends and so we are asking others in the Area Meeting to support this effort. So this message has gone out to the whole Area Meeting.

In the past, Greenbelt have allocated us up to 10 free tickets each day for people taking part in the MfW. Those who attended on one day got a pass for that day; those who attended on two or more days got a full weekend pass. The arrangements are similar this year.

If more people apply than there are passes available, I will distribute them on a first-come, first-served basis, but giving priority to those who can be present on two or more days. There is usually a waiting list in case any of the originally chosen people are prevented at the last minute from attending. Normally the passes are colour-coded wristbands which once fitted cannot be removed without destroying them.

Last year, the Saturday MfW was at 12.30 and the Sunday one at 9.00. We can request time slots, but may have to accept something different, depending on the availability of venues and other Greenbelt admin issues. At the moment I'm proposing that we stick to the same times as last year for Saturday and Sunday, and that we ask for an evening slot on Friday and an afternoon slot on Monday. If anyone feels strongly that other times would be better, please tell me.

If you want to take part, please send an email to gb@cheltenhamquaker.org.uk saying what day(s) you are prepared to attend. I need to know names for submission to Greenbelt by the beginning of May.

Find out more about Greenbelt at www.greenbelt.org.uk.

Rowland Carson

Peter Hazell

Testimonies concerning the life and service of deceased Quakers are a long tradition in the Religious Society of Friends. This testimony records with thankfulness the power of divine grace in Peter's life and gives a flavour of how the grace of God worked in his life and, through him, the life of Cheltenham Meeting.

Bess told me years ago that Peter had become a Quaker during his years at Eton, having been influenced by the example, among others, of Alfred Salter, the Quaker MP for Bermondsey, who together with his wife had worked for years as a doctor in the slums of the East End. Peter and Bess joined Cheltenham Meeting in 1982 and immediately established themselves, in their own words, as “do-ers” rather than “be-ers”. Peter was always fizzing with ideas and usually, but not always, carried the Meeting along with him. He initiated the monthly newsletter which he wrote out in his distinctive script, photocopied and distributed. This was an invaluable vehicle for news of Friends and exchange of ideas which has continued up to the present time, though now printed and more often than not e-mailed. He and Bess joined the Peace Group and Bible Study Group and infected everyone with their enthusiasm and deep sense of commitment. He made contact with a West Indian church in Sparkbrook, Birmingham, and for several years we exchanged visits with them. Our joint picnics in Pittville Park, with boating on the lake, were highly organised by Peter and gave staid Cheltenham Quakers a marvellous insight into the ebullient lives of the Sparkbrook congregation.

Most precious of our memories are the summer outings to Edgeworth where we held a bring and share tea party on the lawn, perilously carrying teacups and teapots up and down the step to the kitchen. Their hospitality was legendary, as was their genuine interest in the doings of everyone in the Meeting. Despite their involvement with their own large family, Peter or Bess would corner one of us and ask after members of our family. “Tell me,” Peter would say, and genuinely wanted to know. He was admirably suited for the role of overseer in the Meeting and was always helping lame dogs over stiles in an unobtrusive way. An example of his humanity was the incident of the burglar who robbed their house and was later apprehended. Peter found out that the burglar had difficulties in getting to court, so he gave him a lift each time.

Always a great communicator, he was a spontaneous letter writer, firing off missives on matters which touched him deeply and had to be addressed immediately. Often controversial, they showed him to be a passionate advocate of truth and plain speaking. Friendship was to him a warm, living thing to be nourished by “helping one another up with a tender hand”, to quote the words of Isaac Pennington. He followed the exhortation of George Fox to be “a pattern and example wherever you may come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.” This he did most faithfully and we are thankful for his life.

Margaret Sheldrick

Notes from Local Meeting

Hospital Chaplaincy: As Rosemary Hoggett, one of our two hospital chaplains, has moved to Cornwall and Cheltenham now has only one, Richard Lacock, we agreed that a second hospital chaplain should be sought from Gloucester Meeting, and Richard will raise the matter with Gloucester.

Overseers: We discussed the role of the Overseers, and whilst there was a need for the Overseers to ensure that the necessary pastoral care is in place, it was emphasised that this did not mean that they should undertake everything themselves. As a first stage, current Overseers will look at building a network of existing groups within the Meeting, and these groups are asked to list their members for the information of Overseers, and let them have these by 15th March. We will also be seeking out any other informal groups that exist in the Meeting in order to contribute to this exercise.

Local Meeting will consider changing the term “Overseer” to something less hierarchical and more illustrative of the kind of mutually supportive relationship we are aiming for in establishing a wider network of pastoral care.

John Cross

Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas: April 2009 – August 2009

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
April 12th	John Cross	Margaret Johnson	Gillian Bailey
April 19th	Keith Oakey	Dorothy Colwill	Judy Clinton
April 26th	Marilyn Jamieson	Eleanor Pratt	Rowland Carson
May 3rd	Bill Rowland	Janet Weyers	Harold Reeves
May 10th	Jo Teakle	Margaret Sheldrick	Nan Dower
May 17th	Jane Brighton	Richard Lacock	Ian Brighton
May 24th	Dorothy Colwill	Nan Dower	Julie Stubbs
May 31st	Joy Heaven	Christine O'Neil	Iris Terrell
June 7th	Jack Danes	Margaret Danes	Tim Howarth
June 14th	Elaine Boulter	Maureen Steffen	Jeremy Steffen
June 21st	Brenda Judge	Lydia Sutcliffe	Margot Roe
June 28th	Denis Mitchell	Philip Paull	Jo Teakle
July 5th	Margaret Cooper	David Cooper	Nina Odescalchi
July 12th	Richard Lacock	Cathy Rollo	Frances Bond
July 19th	Chris Vyle	Ann Caro	Jill Vyle
July 26th	Steve Fowles	Margaret Sheldrick	Dorothy Colwill
August 2nd	Julie Stubbs	Nan Dower	Nan Dower
August 9th	Judy Clinton	Janet Weyers	Patrick Callaghan

If a date is not convenient to you please arrange to swap with someone else on the list or contact Nan Dower on 01242 226511

Doorkeepers, you will need to arrive by 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 (1 litre) 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.