

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

MAY 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 (7th and 21st by shared lunch.

DIARY (ALL OF THESE MEETINGS AT THE MEETING HOUSE UNLESS OTHERWISE STATED)

April

Su 19 12.00 **Meeting for Learning** led by Jacek Weyers. Review of Meetings over the last six months on "our Testimonies".
Su 19 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Wotton-under Edge, the Chipping Club Room.
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 the Meeting House.
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

May

Su 3 11.30 **Local Meeting**
We 6 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome.
Th 7 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Th 7 2.30 **The Searchers** at the Meeting House. Details below.
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
Th 14 7.30 **Good Lives** don't have to cost the earth, at the Meeting House. Details below.
Fr 15 **Woodbrooke Weekend** until Sunday 17th.
Th 21 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch.
Sa 23 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00
We 27 7.30 **Talk and Discussion on Energy Use** at the Meeting House. Details below.
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 31 12.00 **Introduction to Rex Ambler's Experiment with Light Meditation** led by Maureen Steffen.

June

We 3 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome
Th 4 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 7 11.30 **Local Meeting**
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
Th 11 6.30 **Area Meeting** at Painswick Meeting House (Tea from 5.30)
Su 14 7.00 **Circle Dancing**
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

The Searchers, Thursday, 7th May at 2.30 pm at the Meeting House

Our topic for this session will be “Why are we what we are?”. The ambiguity in the question is deliberate, and can be interpreted in many ways, including Darwinism, nature/nurture, faith, heritage, developmental biology, etc. etc.

Keith Oakey

Christians at Work, Monday 11th May at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

The speaker this month will be the Revd. Paul Wilkinson on “Workplaces in the Bible”. Owing to illness Paul had to cancel his scheduled talk last year, so we particularly looking forward to hearing from him this year.

Roy Crompton

Good Lives don't have to cost the Earth

This Woodbrooke Study course will be held on Thursday, 14th May, 18th June and 16th July from 7.30 to 9.30 at the Meeting House. The course will be facilitated by Morgan Phillips M.Sc., Ph.D. Morgan is a freelance expert on sustainability and is the new director of the Global Footsteps dimension of the Rendezvous Society. For more information on Morgan and about his company, see www.becominggreen.co.uk.

The course is designed to help Friends apply our Quaker values and practices to the pressing issues of today, in particular the threats to the environment. It will provide a means of beginning to discern if we might be called to action in our own lives, and act as a means to move us towards what William Penn had in mind when he wrote, “True godliness don't turn men out of the world, but enables them to live better in it, and excites their endeavours to mend it” (1682).

The course is over three sessions each of approximately two hours. It would be most beneficial to attend all three sessions but if you are only able to attend one or two sessions that would be fine.

In order to assist in the preparation of the course it would be very helpful if you could let me know in advance if you intend to come, either personally or by signing the sheet on the notice board.

Dorothy Colwill

Exploring the Richness of our Differences – Woodbrooke Weekend Friday 15th – Sunday 17th May

We are looking forward to our Cheltenham Meeting weekend at Woodbrooke, when we will be meeting each other and valuing our experiences of God and prayer. Those attending are asked to bring a journal if they like to keep one, and outdoor clothes (depending on the weather in May!) There is no work to do in preparation, but Friends are asked to be prepared to 'live adventurously!' All activities are for all abilities. Some Elders have just visited Woodbrooke and discussed the programme with one of the tutors, and we are very confident that this will be an enjoyable, thoughtful and stimulating weekend. **If you have not already booked your place, please speak to Maureen Steffen** who will give you an application form. There are still some places available. The cost will be £166 (to be confirmed). Bursaries are available. To discuss this further please contact Tim Howarth.

Dorothy Colwill

Talk on Energy Use, Wednesday 27th May at 7.30 pm at the Meeting House

On Wednesday 27th May, Neil Endicott, Policy Officer (Sustainable Energy Security), Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA), Brussels, will give a talk and lead a discussion on **Our Energy Use: Conflict, Human Rights and Poverty**.

This follows the presentation that Martin Quick and Marilyn Miles gave to Area Meeting in January about the QCEA/QPSW conference they attended in December 2008 on the same theme. More information from Marilyn.

See also <http://www.quaker.org/qcea/energysecurity/index.html>

The talk will provide an opportunity to see how Quaker values are put into action in Europe.

Marilyn Miles, Treasurer, Nailsworth Meeting

Notes from Local Meeting

Overseers: At the last Local Meeting on 1st March it was agreed to develop a network to ensure sufficient pastoral support for all members of our Meeting. Jo Teakle reported that as yet little development had taken place. Christine O'Neill had made a proposal for a questionnaire on this topic to be sent to all Members and Attenders. There was support for this, which will be discussed at the next meeting of Overseers, who will report back to Meeting.

Nominations: John Cross reported that the priority at the moment is to seek a nomination for a **Lettings Officer** (Job Description created by Ian Brighton attached below). Rowland Carson said that he was creating a software package that would deal with bookings, payments and all other administration aspects, including production of calendars, etc. He said it could (and indeed should) be customised to suit the needs and preferences of users, and he felt this could be an inducement for people to come forward. To encourage those who might consider the job, Rowland Carson offered to develop an easy-to-use software tool for managing all aspects of room hire, and welcomed discussion of the needs with anyone who might be interested. He would be pleased for people to talk to him about this.

John Cross

Letting Officers Job Description

There are two pieces of paper that are of concern to this Office

A. The Weekly Room Booking Form (WRBF), which is posted on the notice board a week in advance. This shows the rooms to be used and who will be using them and when.

B The 3-month usage report to who ever is sending the bills out, currently Ann Caro. This shows user's name, which room, and date used plus totals.

A The way you do the job is up to you but I organise it as follows. I have a standard weekly sheet, which is made up of all the regular users; this includes short-term weekly users and fortnightly users. The short term I will add at the beginning of their run and delete at the end (Typical Educational Sessions). The fortnightly users I delete every other week as appropriate. I will also consult the Diary which has entered the monthly users and the casual/one off users, (in accepting bookings both source of information need to be looked in too, i.e. Standard & Dairy).

B It is from the WRBF that the 3 monthly summery, which provides the info for the 3 monthly usage report, it is therefore important that any amendments made are corrected on the computer copy (MASTER).

All the Forms

WRBF in the computer

Standard weekly booking form (Computer)

Dairy

Monthly bookings.

List of users Names and addresses (+ E-M)

I would say that I receive about two calls a week plus the odd E-M. I would not expect to spend more than 1 hour a week preparing the WRBF and handing out and collecting keys, with exception of showing new people the Meeting House and the time needed to summarise the 3 months and report.

The only other criteria may be availability but I have not found this is critical

Ian Brighton