

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## JULY 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 (2<sup>nd</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>) by shared lunch.

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

#### June

Th 18 7.30 **Good Lives** don't have to cost the earth, Session 2  
Th 25 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.  
Sa 27 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00

#### July

We 1 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome  
Th 2 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 2 2.30 **Searchers** in the Meeting House [Details below]  
Su 5 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
Mo 6 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Jeff James on "Our Common Calling".  
Th 9 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Sa 11 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Nailsworth Meeting House  
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  
Th 16 7.30 **Good Lives** don't have to cost the earth, Session 3  
Su 19 12.00 **Mary Birkett Card:** The Struggle to become the Ideal Quaker Woman' A talk by Jo Teakle  
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.  
Th 30 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

#### August

We 5 2.00 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome  
Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Su 9 7.00 **Circle Dancing**  
Tu 11 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve.  
Th 13 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Th 20 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

**July Collection for Quaker Charities:** Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

### **Searchers, Thursday, 2<sup>nd</sup> July at 2.30 pm in the Meeting House.**

This month our topic will be a continuation of the last meeting, when we looked at some uncomfortable "Queries". Please bring an example of a "Query" which you find uncomfortable. Keith Oakey

### **Christians at Work: Monday, 6<sup>th</sup> July at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church**

The speaker this month will be the Rev. Jeff James on "Our Common Calling". Jeff joined the NHS, and after having headed the Gloucestershire Mental Health Trust, he is now the Chief Executive of Wiltshire Primary Care Trust. He was ordained as a priest in 2002 and will reflect on personal experience of being a Christian in the workplace, and whether this is different for ordained people in secular roles, and whether there are particular issues for Christians in leadership roles in the workplace.

Roy Crompton

### **Mary Birkett Card: The Struggle to become the Ideal Quaker Woman**

Sunday, 19<sup>th</sup> July at 12.00 after Meeting for Worship, Jo Teakle will give a talk about the life of her great-great-grandmother, Mary Birkett Card (1774-1817), a Quaker poet who lived in Dublin.

Jo Teakle

### **Young Peace Workers:**

The Peace Group has undertaken, on behalf of Meeting, to support another QPSW group of peaceworkers. Their work is rooted in the earliest concerns of Friends. It is "adventurous, innovative and driven by our spiritual insights and our commitment to practical action." The appeal is an opportunity to learn more about what Quakers are doing today. It provides opportunities to work together as a Meeting, using our gifts and enabling us to share witness. It is an opportunity for outreach – showing what Quakers do and how we live out our values in the wider world.

This time we support four dedicated young people working to strengthen Peace in the United Kingdom: one placed with Peace Child International; one at St. Ethelburga's Centre for Reconciliation and Peace; one to work with the Campaign Against Depleted Uranium; and one with Campaign Against Arms Trade. They need our commitment and financial support. Various fundraising ideas have been suggested. We welcome others.

Cynthia Baron

### **Dorothy Madeleine Kerwin (1925-2009)**

On 20<sup>th</sup> May we laid dear Dorothy to rest in our wondrous earth. In glorious sunshine, against the backdrop of Cleeve Hill, its slopes clad with trees in their spring-time fullness.

Dorothy practised reverence for all life, showing a loving consideration of all creatures. Before retiring to Cheltenham she lived miles from anywhere in the Lincolnshire countryside at Little Humby. There was a generator of electricity to be tended, as well as other convenience commodities. Dorothy's childhood was spent with her parents and brother David Roberts in Grantham. They happened to live in the same street as Margaret (née Roberts) Thatcher, one year her senior, and to attend the same school. After University she took some nursing training, but was unhappy by the way things were done. Later she chose to qualify as a psychiatric social worker. During the interim period she married, meeting up with her husband's illness, and courageously overcoming the sadness of his sudden death.

In 1954 Dorothy worked in the slums of Birmingham where Rosemary Hoggett was engaged at the time. Under the auspices of the Family Service Unit they were helping people who the Local Authority could no longer deal with. Rosemary says, "Dorothy was very gifted in her work, readily empathising with clients. She understood how to help them help themselves. A very caring, insightful, compassionate worker." "We became great friends, she was fun to be with, and we had many holidays together. She too became vegetarian, and found her bad migraines ceased. Later she was a vegan. On retiring to Cheltenham I introduced her to Friends." As we know, Dorothy was supportive to our Quaker Meeting, a long time attender. She did not join, as she did not want a label. She had strong principles which she held until the end.

Dorothy's nephew Nigel and niece Gillian in their youth considered their loving aunt somewhat eccentric. Their parents Marion and David were different, David in his public service became a politician.

Dorothy's sylphlike figure was supremely expressed in her love of ballroom dancing, for which she received many trophies for excellence. We had the chance to dance out of Cheltenham Burial Chapel to the lilt of the Blue Danube, David's surprise for us, in contrast to our Memorial Meeting for Worship, unfamiliar to his family. It was attended by many of you.

In recent years Dorothy's energies dwindled following a hip operation, whereby she required care. She chose Badgeworth Court for recuperation, where pusscat "Bim" could join her before returning home. In Leckhampton, Dorothy was amongst caring friends and neighbours in a community she appreciated, and who appreciated her presence. Much later sister Thérèse and her colleagues cared for Dorothy at Nazareth House. By arrangement she managed to get home again. Camille kindly left her family in Cambridge to care for Dorothy day and night, with the help of Alan Pope. Together they provided a plateau of quality of life as dedicated friends and carers. During a visit to Merlin Close, shortly before Dorothy died, I witnessed her extreme weakness and the expert care received. Over a cup of tea, ginger cake and a chat, the four of us saw Dorothy's spirit arise and sparkle. That same spirit was abroad in the world as we committed her body to its natural end. Dear Dorothy, "your hopes and fears are committed into our minds and wills, your loves are committed into our hearts";

"Deep peace of the quiet earth to you;  
Deep peace of the Son of Peace to you."

In appreciation of your Life, our prayerful thoughts, from your friends everywhere,

Rosemary Hoggett, Ruth Baker, Margaret Sheldrick

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

Wilma Carson's ashes: On Tuesday, 26<sup>th</sup> May at 11.00 a short Meeting for Worship was held at Cheltenham FMH with Rowland Carson, Margaret Johnson, Maureen Steffen, Jeremy Steffen and Jill Main present. Afterwards the ashes of Wilma Carson were strewn around the base of the courtyard birch tree. Jill Main had very kindly removed and cleaned the stones beforehand. All present helped to replace the stones round the tree. Although the last physical remains of Wilma have now been returned to the earth, her spirit and presence continues.

Nominations Committee: We are still seeking additional members of Elders, Overseers and Nominations, and some of these are now becoming quite urgent. Ann Caro had indicated her wish to lay down her appointment as a Cheltenham Representative on the Area Meeting Body of Trustees, and Ann was thanked for her service. Joy Heaven had also expressed her need at this time to lay down her responsibilities as a Cheltenham Overseer, and the Meeting recorded their appreciation of her past service. Jane Brighton had laid down her role as "Links with the University of Gloucester", and a job description for this will be printed in the Cheltenham Quaker.

Meetings for Learning: Elders were seeking from Meeting ideas and topics for future Meetings for Learning. It was felt that amongst other things the experience of those attending the recent Woodbrooke Weekend could be a focus for Meetings for Learning, as could issues relating to Quaker Membership and Practice. It was hoped that Friends who had any suggestions will approach Elders to discuss this.

John Cross