

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JANUARY 2010

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)

December

Sa 19 2.00 **Meeting for Worship** at USAF Base, Fairford, outside main gate, until 3.00. See note below.
Su 20 6.00 **Christmas Carols and Mince Pies** in the Meeting House
Th 24 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.
Fr 25 10:30 **Meeting for Worship** for half an hour
Th 31 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

January

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 **Searchers.** [Details below]
Su 10 12.00 **Area Meeting** at Gloucester following MfW at 10.30. Packed lunches
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.
Mo 18 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Cheese and Wine Evening, with entertainment by Tom Elliott, at The Cottages, Leckhampton Church
Th 21 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch
Su 24 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** Sustainability, facilitated by Dennis Mitchell and Mark Boulton
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

February

Mo 1 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Meeting Room, Emmanuel Church, Fairfield Parade, Leckhampton: Speaker Brian Dunlop on "L'Arche - a week in Community".
We 3 2.00 **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.
Sa 13 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Cheltenham (Park and Ride)
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch

Searchers:

The next meeting will be on Thursday, 7th January in the Meeting House. Our discussions will start from the question, "Have we moved too far from our Christian roots?"

All Friends are very welcome.

Keith Oakey

Meeting for Learning, 21st February

Please note that the topic for February's Meeting for Learning has changed to read "Contemplating Mortality - Making sense of the end of life".

Dorothy Colwill

Message from Rowland Carson

For some time I've wrestled with the question of Christmas cards. This year, as usual, I have written a letter (or e-mail where possible) of news and greetings, to friends and family who are overseas, or who I don't see very often. But I've always found it rather strange to send or give cards to people I see most weeks of the year. And then there is the issue of who "merits" receiving a card. Those I know most closely? Those who send me one? The Quaker principle of not celebrating any time or season as more sacred than another could lead to the conclusion that there is no need for Christmas cards at all. When Wilma and I first moved to Cheltenham in 1997, after struggling with this question for years in Suffolk, we tried to adopt the practice of not sending cards at all to people in the Quaker Meeting, and we made a donation to Quaker Homeless Action instead. However, for various reasons, our resolve was gradually eroded year by year. In this year of change for me, I have decided not to send any cards to people in the Local Meeting. That fills me with relief that I don't have to decide where to draw the line about who gets one and who doesn't, for I feel that everyone in the Meeting is my family and I love you all. So, you won't get a Christmas card from me, but I hope that throughout the year I offer fellowship and friendship - and a hug to anyone who needs one. If you think I'm forgetting that intent, please feel free to give me a hug to remind me!

Rowland Carson