

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## MAY 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 (6<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>) by shared lunch.

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

#### April

Th 22 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.  
Th 29 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### May

Su 2 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
We 5 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome  
Th 6 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 6 2.00 **Searchers** in the Meeting House. Discussion topic: "Gambling".  
Su 9 12.00 **Area Meeting.** Forest of Dean, at Staunton Village Hall. (MFW at 10.30, followed by Business Meeting. Packed lunches. Bluebell wood walk after, weather permitting)  
Mo 10 8.00 **Christians at Work.** Revd. Paul Wilkinson on "The Way Forward".  
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  
Su 23 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** "Meetings for Worship for Business," facilitated by Ann Caro  
Th 27 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour

#### June

We 2 2.30 **Peace Group** at the Meeting House. All welcome.  
Th 3 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Su 6 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
Mo 7 8.00 **Christians at Work:** "An Evening at Glenfall House". Details next month  
Tu 8 10.30 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve  
Th 10 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.  
Th 10 6.30 **Area Meeting** at Painswick FMH. Tea from 5.30  
Th 17 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Sa 19 2:00pm **Meeting for Worship for the Solemnisation of Marriage** between Dorothy Colwill and Rowland Carson

**May Collection for Quaker and other charities:** Peace Direct, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London, EC2A4LT (020 7549 0285) .

#### Searchers

The next meeting will be at 2.00 pm on **Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> May** in the Meeting House, when our discussion topic will be "Gambling" All friends are very welcome, but please note the earlier starting time.

Keith Oakey

### **Christians at Work, Monday, 10<sup>th</sup> May in the Cottages, Church Road, Leckhampton**

The speaker this month will be the Revd. Paul Wilkinson on “Rector? Priest in Charge? Vicar? Team Vicar? Team Rector?” He will look to the ways of the past, explain the reasons for changes, and what they are, as well as offering ideas about what the future might hold.

### **Meeting for Worship for the Solemnisation of Marriage – Dorothy and Rowland**

Gloucestershire Area Meeting have authorised this to take place at Cheltenham Friends’ Meeting House on SATURDAY, 19TH JUNE, 2010 AT 2.00p.m.

There will be refreshments in the tea-room afterwards. All Friends are very welcome. Please let us know if you are coming, so that we know how many sandwiches to make! Dorothy and Rowland

### **The Aldermaston Blockade, 15<sup>th</sup> February, 2010**

Our Aldermaston Quaker group; Alison, Chris and Jill, Cynthia, Dennis and Jane met with Morgan at the Gloucester Peace Vigil on February 11<sup>th</sup> where the theme was Trident and Aldermaston and where we were joined by Keith, curate from Matson. The day before the blockade we met together at Morgan and Alison's, together with CND friends, Jen from Stoke, and Ailsa and Peter from Penzance, who were providing transport for one group, Chris and Jill the other. A feeling of unity and fellowship grew and we named our affinity group Speedwell (after the Veronica beccabunga).

At 5.00 a.m. On February 15<sup>th</sup> the two cars set off and eventually a grey light brought the hedgerows of the winding country lanes into focus as we neared Tacleys and the gate we were helping to blockade with the Faith Group. There had been vigils through the night and one group, candles burning, were finishing the vigil and beginning the day singing “Morning has broken” to Bunessan, a joyful start as we took in the scene: a huge police presence, including a double row across the gates; but they did not dominate the scene, for everywhere was an atmosphere of joyous anticipation amid a growing throng of happy people, already 4 or 5 sitting in the road holding peace placards, the rousing beat of a tambour (splendid to dance to), and floating over all, rainbow peace banners.

The seated blockaders having been removed, Jill, Alison and Keith, fastened together with bicycle locks, took their place, lying on the road and were undisturbed for a while until the police started moving all off the roads and appeared with bolt cutters to separate our doughty blockaders before taking each unhelpful person (3 to lift each) and laying the resisting weight on the pavement, to our cheers. The Keith made a dramatic break through the increased police presence, now with four mounted police, with a dive that would have graced a try-scoring rugby player, and was joined by a friend. Jill tried to join them but was restrained, this time quite roughly, by the police.

All this time there had been singing and dancing, food was being shared, and there arrived an amazing, colourful contraption, reminiscent of Heath Robinson, driven only by bicycle pedal power which also provided electricity for a microphone through which different individuals could give their peace messages

At 11 a.m. was an Interfaith Prayer Vigil with readings and prayers from several faiths, all very moving, with periods of silence between. Throughout this time our standing in intense cold was beginning to tell, and at 12 we left, for the thankful warmth of our cars.

None of our group was arrested, but we later learned that 26 overall were, from the 800 blockaders. The Speedwell group has decided to continue to meet at intervals to work together for peace in whatever ways we can. Cynthia Baron

### **Notes from Local Meeting**

Treasurer's Report: Our Treasurer, Ruth Brinkman, presented the Cheltenham Annual Report, which had been externally examined. We thanked Ruth for her work as Treasurer.

Library: The Librarians sought the opinion of the Meeting as the future of the Library. Many books may now be outdated, and they wish to prune the stock, initially placing books in the cupboards beneath the shelves, and a new issuing system will be initiated in order to organise and monitor use of the Library. The more up-to-date stock should prove more attractive, and a small collection of DVDs has also been started.

Sunday Collections: The Sunday Collections group reported that the average collection is £60-£70. The chosen charity for each month will be listed, with contact details to allow individual Friends to contribute directly, in the *Cheltenham Quaker*. John Cross