

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## NOVEMBER 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 (4<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>) by shared lunch.

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

#### October

Sa 23 6.00 **"50-mile Feast"** - a bring and share celebration of local food at the Meeting House.  
Th 28 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### November

Mo 1 8.00 **Christians at Work** at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church. Revd. Canon John Holder on "The National Star College",  
We 3 2.30 **Peace Group**, venue to be confirmed. All welcome  
Th 4 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 4 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House  
Sa 6 10.00 **Area Meeting for Learning: "Wrestling with Language"** at Gloucester Meeting House.  
Su 7 11.30 **Local Meeting**  
Tu 9 12.00 **Ecumenical Prayer Group** at the White House, Gotherington Lane, Bishops Cleeve  
Th 11 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
Su 14 2.00 **Area Meeting** at Painswick FMH. (Park and Ride)  
Th 18 12.30 **Third Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch  
Th 18 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House  
Su 21 12.00 **Meeting for Learning: "Quakers and Christianity: the baby and the bathwater?"**, facilitated by Richard Lacock  
Th 25 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour.

#### December

We 1 2.30 **Peace Group**, venue to be confirmed. All welcome  
Th 2 12.30 **First Thursday Worship** for half an hour, followed by Shared Lunch.  
Th 2 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House  
Mo 6 8.00 **Christians at Work: Tom Elliott** on "An Audience with Tom Elliott – youth worker and magician" at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church  
Th 9 12.30 **Thursday Worship** for half an hour  
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 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

**November Collection for Quaker and other charities:** Cheltenham Open Door  
<[www.cheltenhamopendoor.org.uk/donations.html](http://www.cheltenhamopendoor.org.uk/donations.html)>

#### **Christians at Work: Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> October at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church**

The speaker this month will be the Rev. Canon John Holder on "The National Star College".

Roy Crompton

## **A Testimony to the Life of Dennis Mitchell**

Our Friend Dennis Mitchell sadly passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010, while doing one of the activities he loved most - riding his tricycle on long journeys, in this case to the Area Meeting summer camp in Wales. It was a typically energetic venture for Dennis, in spite of his 78 years.

Dennis was a very long-standing and committed attender at Cheltenham Meeting. He was invariably cheerful, and his spoken ministry in Meetings for Worship was always thoughtful and helpful to many. He was a valued member of the Peace Group.

A deeply principled man, he retired early from his job as a civil servant when he felt he could no longer accept government policy as it affected his work. Instead, he threw himself into various activities in the town, most notably being the inspiration and prime mover behind the Rendezvous Society, which is now known as Global Footsteps. In this role he developed links between young people in Cheltenham and those in several other towns throughout the world, including his particular interest, Kisumu in Kenya, with which a friendship link was developed in 1985.

It was Dennis's vision that established the Rendezvous centre at 16 Portland Street Cheltenham, including a fair trade shop, which celebrate its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year.

He was a man of action, whether arranging tours of Gloucestershire Meeting Houses by public transport in one day, or helping youngsters develop their football skills. He was an energetic worker for peace, international understanding, and the environment, with a deep knowledge of how they are interconnected.

As a teenager he was deeply affected by the news of the use of nuclear bombs on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and these events remained a profound influence on his life and work for disarmament. He was inspired in the early 1980s by a talk in London by Philip Noel-Baker, politician and Nobel Peace Prize winner, and a returned to Cheltenham to become the driving force behind a petition campaign. Cheltenham Action for Peace members went door to door collecting signatures calling for an end to the nuclear arms race and positive steps towards building world peace, which were subsequently presented to the UN in New York as part of the United Nations World Disarmament Campaign. Following this, his view that real peace will come through individuals from different cultures and nations growing in understanding of each other, led him to the foundation of the Rendezvous Society.

By his actions Dennis expressed his faith. He was an inspiring and much-loved Friend, and the meeting house in Cheltenham was overwhelmed by the great number of his family, friends and acquaintances at the Thanksgiving Meeting in his memory on 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010. This showed the many lives which he touched, and the extent to which he is missed at Cheltenham Meeting and in the town.

Dennis was also a devout family man, and we offer our condolences to Beryl, his four children, and his grandchildren.

Tim Howarth

## **Notes from LM**

Premises Committee: Rowland Carson reported on work done or agreed for the Meeting House. The roof has been dealt with, but the kitchen does not meet the required standards for kitchens in public use. Quotes are being sought for a cooker extractor hood and extractor fan. Permission is being sought from the Council to remove the tree, and the replacement should not be surface rooted.

Reviewing our financial contributions to Quakers: Philip Paull had attended the Annual Quaker Treasurers' Meeting, and the emphasis laid on supporting local meetings in their fund raising. Cheltenham does not have sufficient funds to refurbish the kitchen, and members and attenders will be approached individually by Philip Paull to discuss their current contributions.

50-mile supper: Nan Dower outlined what was involved in the Bring and Share 50-mile supper to be held on Saturday, 23<sup>rd</sup> October. People were asked to bring local food sourced as far as possible from within a 50 mile radius of Cheltenham. Friends are asked to make every effort to support this, which is partly aimed at building our own Quaker community. Please sign up on the list on the Notice Board, and indicate what you are thinking of contributing.

Christmas Day 2010: As Christmas Day falls on a Saturday this year, the Seventh Day Adventists are hoping to use the Meeting House as usual. It was agreed to ask them if any Quakers who wished to attend the Meeting House on 25<sup>th</sup> December could join them in worship.

John Cross