

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

MAY 2011

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.

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

April

Th 20 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

May

Su 1 11.30 **Local Meeting**

We 4 2.30 **Peace Group.** Venue to be confirmed. All welcome.

Th 5 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

Su 8 12.00 **Area Meeting** at Forest of Dean, Staunton Village Hall after MfW at 10.30.
Packed lunches.

Mo 9 7.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

Mo 9 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Tom Elliott on "An Audience with Tom Elliott, Youth worker and Magician" at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

Th 19 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

Fr 20 – Su 22 **Charney Manor Weekend:** "What does it mean to be a Quaker?"

Mo 23 7.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

June

We 1 2.30 **Peace Group.** Venue to be confirmed. All welcome.

Th 2 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

Su 5 11.30 **Local Meeting**

Mo 6 8.00 **Christians at Work:** "How on earth did I get here?" Rev. Jacqueline Rodwell, at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

Th 9 6.30 **Area Meeting** at Painswick FMH, Vicarage Street. Tea from 5.30

Mo 13 7.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

Th 16 2.00 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

May collection for Quaker and other charities: Quaker Tapestry, Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BH <www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk/shop/23/>

Christians at Work, Monday 9th May at 8.00 at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

This month's speaker will be Tom Elliott on "An Audience with Tom Elliott – youth worker and magician." Tom is in his final University year studying Youth and Community work and applied Theology. He is a comedian and illusionist and regularly performs at Christian and "Secular" events, and is now focusing his performance work for evangelistic purposes. He will speak about his future ministry and where his studies and performance work fit into his plan.

Roy Crompton

Healing Group

Elders are interested to know who in our Meeting might wish to form a Healing Group. It would be for the group to decide the format, but I will give some details of groups that I have had experience of in the past.

We met once a month and after a short period of silence we were led into a guided meditation. This lasted about 15 minutes. Then into the gathered silence we brought the names of those for whom we were asking healing. These were spoken aloud or held silently. Some people who came to the Meeting for Learning led by Hazel Court some time ago may remember that she demonstrated such a Meeting for Healing.

I will be putting a sheet up on our notice board, so that anyone interested could put their names. We could then gauge interest and meet to discuss the way forward. If there are any questions about this, please ask me. Maureen Steffen

Notes from LM

Bursary Fund: Our Treasurer, Ruth Brinkman asked LM to authorise a fund to be set up to support Friends who needed financial assistance to attend courses, conferences or Britain Yearly Meeting. We agreed that Elders or Overseers could at their discretion authorise up to £1,000 in each calendar year. The Treasurer would need to be provided with written authorisation to access the fund, and it was noted that Elders and Overseers can also access the Area Meeting Bursary Fund.

Liaison Meeting: Elders and Overseers have now met with the Clerk, the Treasurer and Convenors of Nominations, Premises *etc.* three times, and these meetings have proved a valuable means of sharing information and providing mutual support. We are currently moving towards looking at spiritual matters as well as practical matters. This is an information and worship-sharing group of people with particular responsibilities, and the Minutes of the Group are freely available for anyone who wishes to consult them.

Criminal Justice Conference, Woodbrooke, 25-27 February, 2011: Dorothy Carson had attended the conference, and gave a report to the Meeting. She described the initiatives taken by voluntary organisations despite the inadequacy of government funding. Dorothy then answered a question on Restorative Justice, referring to Community Oriented Policing which allows an offender to access restorative justice in a way that also focusses on the victim, which can sometimes prevent people coming to Court at all.

Storeroom Renovation: The Storeroom will be renovated with new shelving *etc.* early in May for less than £1,000. Hirers are asked to remove their material by May 1st, and Elders and Overseers need to ensure that all Quaker material is removed by then, and placed in the Children's Room. Any children at Meeting on 1st and 8th May will meet in the tearoom. Volunteers may be needed on 1st May after LM to help with any final clearing of the storeroom, and again the following Sunday after Meeting to replace items.

John Cross