

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

SEPTEMBER 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)

August

Th 18 2.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

Mo 22 7.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

September

Su 4 11.30 **Local Meeting**

Mo 5 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Edward Tresize on "Christian Meditation", at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

Th 15 2.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House

Su 18 12.00 **Area Meeting at Gloucester FMH.** Packed lunches

Su 25 12.00 **Meeting for Learning:** "What help does my Meeting need from me? Why Quakers don't need paid clergy", led by Philip Paull.

Mo 26 7.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

Th 29 2.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

October

Su 2 11.30 **Local Meeting**

Mo 3 8.00 **Christians at Work:** Michelle Porter Babbage on "Cheltenham Street Pastors – the church in action on the streets" at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church

We 5 2.30 **Peace Group.** Venue to be confirmed

Th 6 2.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

Mo 10 7.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

Th 13 7.00 **Area Meeting** at Nailsworth QMH. Tea from 6.00 p.m.

Th 20 2.30 **"Becoming Friends"** at the Meeting House.

September collection for Quaker and other charities: Dabane Support Fund: Veronica J. Watts (Treasurer), Mayfield House, Long Sutton, Langport, TA10 9LZ: Tel: 01458 241243
<<http://www.dabane.co.zw>>

Christians at Work: Monday, 5th September at the Cottages, Leckhampton Church.

This month's speaker is Edward Tresize, on "Christian Meditation". Edward lectures on Management Ethics and Philosophy at the University of Gloucestershire. He began meditating through Buddhism, and later returned to the meditation practice of the Benedictine rule. He attends St. Mary's Church as well as the Quaker Meetings in Cheltenham.

Roy Crompton

Quaker Painting Group

The Quaker Painting Group meets every Wednesday from 1.30 to 4.00 pm at the Meeting House. As many people may not know much about us, some history may be helpful.

The group was originally the idea of our late Friend Charles Foster. Charles undertook a series of initiatives with the Council and others after the publication of the Beveridge Report in 1948, to provide support and care for the elderly or disadvantaged, such as meals on wheels, outings, holidays and recreational activities for the needy. His major project was the creation and financing of Dowty House Old Peoples Home (opposite the Brewery Centre) which was run with Quaker principles in mind. I will always remember Charles as a politician who never sought riches for himself but walked the streets of Cheltenham meeting that of God in everyone.

The painting group was another such initiative. From a nucleus of 6, an advertisement in the Echo in 1979 led to some 20 people joining, some Quakers but mainly non-Quakers. The move to our present Meeting House in 1987 gave us better lighting and atmosphere. Since then we have evolved from a painting class with formal teaching into our current group, which prefers to paint or sketch entirely without instruction (or constraint). We choose our own subjects for composition and rely on the rest of the group to give any assistance when asked, which we have found to be a very progressive approach to self expression and cohesion within the group.

Our numbers have fallen over the years to a current level of 4, and we would be delighted if others would like to join us. If you would like any further information, please call me on 01242 673179.

Jack Danes

Becoming Friends Group

This Group will take a summer recess until the Third Thursday, 15th September. It is also planned to change the format so that any topic discussed is of interest to Group members directly.

The Becoming Friends manual and Quaker Faith and Practice will be our source materials. At each meeting a topic will be introduced briefly by one of us by prior arrangement. We hope that people will be willing to take turns in doing this. We hope that everybody who attends will bring their spiritual and social concerns, and interests, to the group.

Ian Brighton

“Quaker Week”, 1-9 October 2011

A review of Quaker Week has taken place and the very positive response to the survey has meant that the decision has been made for it to continue to be an annual event. It is stressed that this is an “opportunity” for Friends rather than an obligation/expectation.

One Meeting held an acoustic guitar concert in the Meeting House garden attended by 150 people. Despite the fantastic response, some local Friends felt the event was a failure because none of the concert goers came to Meeting the following week.

Much of outreach is about sowing seeds, helping people become aware of Quakers and where we are. The theme for 2011 is “Make peace a way of life, Peace in our lives, our communities, our worlds”.

Details of how to run peace workshops will be included in the resources – shall we go out and run one rather than have an Open Day at the Meeting House.

Julia Price