

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

MAY 2012

## MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

Are on Sundays at 10.30 at Cheltenham Meeting House. There is usually a shared lunch on each fifth Sunday. 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.

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**DIARY** (All of these meetings are at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)

### April

Saturday	28		<b>Area Meeting Ramble</b> , Stroudwater Canal see below for details
Sunday	29	12 noon	<b>Talks by Jane Mace and Alison Crane</b> see below for details

### May

Wednesday	2	2.30pm	<b>Peace Group</b>
Sunday	6	11.45am	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Saturday	12	2pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business</b> at Newnham WI 'hut' Hope to see bluebells! Details below under Notes from Area Meeting
Sunday	20	12 noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below for details
Thursday	24	2.30pm	<b>Healing Group</b> at Maureen Steffen's.
Friday	25		<b>Yearly Meeting</b> until Monday 28 May at Friends House, London

**SUNDAY 29 APRIL** will be 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday and this month we are hoping to have a short talk by Jane Mace from Nailsworth Meeting, and another from Alison Crane. There may be a shared lunch after the meeting. Jane is Area Meeting Assistant Coordinator for safeguarding and she will be bringing us up to date on the requirements on safeguarding children and vulnerable adults in our Meeting. Alison will be talking about the results of the sustainability exercise which we took part in a short while ago.

**MEETING FOR LEARNING** on Sunday 20 May will be a consideration of the Britain Yearly Meeting theme "What it means to be a Quaker"

**MAY COLLECTION** will be for the Quaker Tapestry. This wonderful collection of 77 tapestry panels, telling something of the Quaker story and beliefs, was made as a shared effort by Quakers and finished in 1996. It is housed in a special museum in Kendal, which is trying to raise £15,000 to reframe the panels to enable them to be sent out to exhibitions more easily and more safely. The website is: [www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk](http://www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk). Cheques may be sent made out to The Quaker Tapestry at Kendal Ltd. The address is: The Quaker Tapestry at Kendal, Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BH. Tel: 01539 722975. Money given to the charity through the Meeting does not attract Gift Aid, while money sent directly does.

## NOTES FROM APRIL LOCAL MEETING

Appointments: Richard Lacock and Dorothy Carson as contacts for the Hospital Spiritual Care team – this means that if anyone in the Gloucester or Cheltenham hospitals asks for a visit by a Quaker, these Friends will be contacted. Also: Judith Roles to the Children's Committee.

It was agreed to add Quaker Voluntary Action, Great Western Air Ambulance, Dabane Trust and Gloucester Carers to our collection list for 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Sundays.

Minutes from Local Meeting and Area Meeting will be made available in the Information File placed in the Library.

Some discussion took place about a possible change in timing to our Local Meeting for Business. It was hoped that if we had a very short agenda, this might take place at 11.00am up to 11.30 am on first Sundays, thus incorporating it into our usual Meeting for Worship. It was decided to refer the matter to Elders for further consideration.

**Items for inclusion in the next newsletter** should be sent to the editorial email address [newsletter@cheltenhamquaker.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@cheltenhamquaker.org.uk) or by post to the editor Janet Weyers by

**Sunday 20 May** at the latest

## NOTES FROM APRIL AREA MEETING

Membership: We are glad to welcome Gordon Smith, attached to Wotton under Edge Meeting, into membership.

Appointments: We appointed Cynthia Baron, Margaret Cooper (both of Cheltenham Meeting) and Caroline Simpson (Nailsworth Meeting) as Overseers for the rest of the triennium.

Gloucester Prison Quaker Minister: Mary Brown (Stroud Meeting) has given service in this post for many years but has now asked to lay it down as soon as a replacement can be found.

The Area Meeting list of Members and Attenders is now available and there is one for each household. Overseers will be distributing them.

In a report presented by Fiona Meadley for Painswick Local Meeting on "How does the Truth prosper" we are encouraged to hear that the Meeting has been growing in size and a sense of community and how the diversity of religious backgrounds is valued.

Area Meeting is on Saturday 12 May at 2pm at Newnham WI Hut, Dean Road, Newnham GL14 1AB (on the south side of Dean Road opposite the entrance to Orchard rise, on road parking nearby). Open from 1pm for picnic lunch.

The Quaker library in Newnham will be open from 10am to 1pm.

The bluebells around Bradley Hill (GL15 4AW) are, we are told, the best in Gloucestershire!

**BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING** is on 25-28 May at Friends House. The Monday will not be a bank holiday this year, so the majority of the necessary business will be completed by the end of Sunday. The Monday will contain two series of parallel workshops to allow deeper sharing of the two themes for the Yearly Meeting: **Economic justice and sustainability** and **What it means to be a Quaker**.

**The Swarthmoor Lecture** will be given this year by Rachel Brett. She is a Human rights lawyer who has worked at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva for about 20 years as our Representative for Human Rights and Refugees. She will describe the quiet processes through which Quakers at the United Nations create opportunities for change to happen. Her lecture will be published as a book and should be available in our library soon after YM.

At the time of writing we do not have the timetable or other papers for Yearly Meeting, but they will soon be available on the BYM website or from our Clerk Ian Brighton.

**AREA MEETING RAMBLE** is being arranged by Jan Thomas (Nailsworth Meeting) for Saturday 28 April. The main walk will be 4-5 miles in total along the Stroudwater Navigation canal towpath and then across fields. There is also the opportunity to just stroll along the canal as far as you like and meet the others for lunch at the Old Badger Inn.

If you would like to join Jan and other Friends on this walk and for lunch please email her as soon as possible with your lunch choices (all details of the walk on News of Friends). If you are not able to get this information ring me, Janet Weyers, or anyone with a computer!

## QUAKER QUEST

Evesham Local Meeting is holding a couple of Quaker Quest events at the beginning of May. This is a programme of informal open sessions for people to find out more about Quakers, and has been found helpful by very many people, both here and abroad. Any enquirers or new attenders who would like to join Evesham Quakers will be very welcome.

The dates are 2 May, 6.00pm -8.30pm and again on Saturday 5 May 10.00am – 12.30pm at the Friends Meeting House, 28 Cowl Street, Evesham WR11 4PL. For further details, contact [bandeququest@gmail.com](mailto:bandeququest@gmail.com) or ring 01386 849199 or 01386 446552.

## AREA MEETING FOR LEARNING

Advance notice of the next Area Meeting for Learning "Learning to Live with Dying". This will be held at Gloucester Meeting House on Saturday 23 June from 10am to 1.00pm, facilitated by Su Chard. The cost will be £5 per person. Contact Alison Crane for more details.