

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JULY 2013

## MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

See below for details

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.

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

June			
Wednesday	26	2.30pm	<b>Quaker Book Club</b> at Margaret Cooper's
Saturday	29	5pm to 8pm	<b>Summer Tea Party</b> see below for details
July			
Sunday	7	12 noon	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Wednesday	10	2.30pm	<b>Peace Group Meeting</b> all welcome
Saturday	14	2pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business</b> see below for details
Sunday	21	12 noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below for details
Monday	22	7.30pm	<b>Liaison Meeting</b>
Tuesday	30	2pm	<b>Elders Meeting</b>
Wednesday	31	2.30pm	<b>Quaker Book Club</b> at Margaret Cooper's

**Summer Tea Party:** Pastoral Friends would like to invite you to a 'Light Tea' to share food, art and music on Saturday 29 June from 5-8pm. Refreshments will be provided, but if anyone wishes to bring either a piece of art or musical offering please speak to either Jo Joy or Ni Smith. Please sign your name on the list in the foyer, indicating if you might be prepared to offer help on the day. Thank you

Jo Joy

**Fifth Sunday 30 June:** There will be no talk this time, as we shall all be meeting at the Summer Tea Party the day before. The postponed session on "Inclusion" will take place on Sunday 30 September.

**Area Meeting for Worship for Business** will be hosted by Stroud Meeting at the Whiteway Colony Hall on 14 July starting at 2pm. There is Meeting for Worship at 11am at the hall.

**Meeting for Learning** on Sunday 21 July will be short talks by Jane Brighton and Mike Lang on the theme "Who I am and how being a Quaker affects my life".

Elders would like to have the names of Friends who have not already spoken but would be willing to do so, or names of other Friends who you would like to hear, for a future date.

**Please note** that there will be no Meeting for Learning in August.

**JULY COLLECTION** is for the Dabane Trust. This charity works with rural communities in Zimbabwe to develop simple and appropriate water abstraction systems and sustainable food production systems. The website is at [www.dabane.co.zw](http://www.dabane.co.zw). Donations can be sent to Dabane Support Trust, 71 Roman Way, Glastonbury, BA6 8AD. This is an adjunct to the main trust and raises money in UK to continue supporting specific projects after Dabane Trust moves on to other ones. It is and has been connected with N. Somerset AM hence the Glastonbury address. Friends who are taxpayers are encouraged to send donations directly to the charity, using Gift Aid or a charity voucher (CAF, Charities Trust, etc), possibly adding a note to say that they belong to Cheltenham Quaker Meeting.

**Items for inclusion in the next newsletter** should be sent to the editorial email address or by post to the editor Janet Weyers by

**Monday 15 July** at the latest

Web address: [http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current\\_cq.pdf](http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current_cq.pdf)

**AREA MEETING CAMP:** will be held Sunday 18 August to Sunday 25 August at Charmouth, Dorset. Further information in the folder in the Library.

**SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE IN 2014:** A weekend has been arranged to take place at Charney Manor 20-22 June 2014. More details in due course

**REQUEST FROM PASTORAL CARE GROUP:** A particular responsibility of Pastoral Friends is to support all those in Meeting who wish to be supported. To help us do this, if you expect to be away from Sunday Meeting for some weeks, please would you let a Pastoral Friend know, so that we are not unnecessarily concerned. Thank you. When Pastoral friends meet we hold friends in the Light. If you feel you need support or you know of someone in Meeting who may need support, please tell one of the Pastoral Friends.

#### **NOTES FROM JUNE LOCAL MEETING**

**Treasurer/Pastoral Friends:** Pastoral Friends have asked for clarification about the correct procedure to deal with requests in confidence for funding to attend courses or for other financial support. After discussion it was agreed to bring this back to our July Meeting for additional discernment.

#### **NOTES FROM JUNE AREA MEETING**

**News of Friends:** We were delighted to welcome Pastor Patrick Muganda as an observer to Area Meeting. Patrick is General Superintendent of Kakamega Yearly Meeting in Western Kenya, a Yearly Meeting with about 12,000 members, which also supports an orphanage and a number of Quaker schools. He arrived in the United Kingdom on 20<sup>th</sup> May and will be visiting until early July. A programme has been put together for him by Friends House. We asked him to convey our best wishes to Friends in Kenya on his return.

**Membership:** We agreed to the transfer out of Wendy Wynne-Eyton (Cirencester) to North Wales Quaker Meeting, where she is currently attending Mold Quaker Meeting  
Lionel Ayliffe (Nailsworth) died at home on 7 June 2013, at the age of 96. Funeral arrangements will be communicated when known.

**Nominations and appointments:** Dorothy Carson (Cheltenham) and Meg Holiday (Gloucester) have been appointed as Elders to serve for the rest of the triennium.

**Forest of Dean: Minute.** A Minute has been drafted for Meeting for Sufferings, which will be brought to Area Meeting in July for further consideration. Please see Area Meeting Minutes for more details.

**Quaker Services Memorial Trust Exhibition:** This has now been booked for May and June 2014. Provisional plans are that it will be displayed in the south transept of Gloucester Cathedral for the first two weeks in May 2014. The third week will be in Nailsworth Meeting House and other venues in Area Meeting are being considered. Fiona Meadley spoke of her hopes to produce a video inspired by the Friends Ambulance Unit, and she has received some funding from the Arts Council for this. Friends who have any relevant visual materials are asked to contact Fiona.

**YEARLY MEETING:** If you visit [www.quaker.org.uk/latest-yearly-meeting](http://www.quaker.org.uk/latest-yearly-meeting) you will find links to the epistle, the unfinalised minutes (soon to be finalised), speakers' notes from the key introducers and audio recordings of many of these along with recordings of Salter Lecture and much of its Question & Answer session and the Swarthmore Lecture. The recordings are not 'broadcast quality' as we only had one 'take' in a hall off the busy Euston Road, but I hope you will find them listenable.

from Karl Gibbs

ps Yearly Meeting in 2014 will be in Bath, 2-9 August

**SPIRITUALITY NETWORK FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE** are holding a workshop on "An Introduction to Quaker Spirituality" led by Indigo Redfern of Nailsworth Meeting on Saturday 6 July at Christ Church, Nailsworth from 10am to 3pm. Cost for the day is £10. To reserve your place contact Revd Dr Alison Evans 01453 824034, [malcolm.alison@btinternet.com](mailto:malcolm.alison@btinternet.com). Bring your own lunch, drinks provided.

## LIBRARY BOOKS:

On checking the books in the library our librarians have found that the books below are missing but have not been signed out. They are asking us to check through books at home to see if any turn up.

Kenworth	Living the Light
Howard Brinton	Friends for 300 Years
Van Elton	George Fox and the Quakers
Wilson	Quaker Relief
Loukes	The Discovery of Quakerism
Cooper	A Living Faith
Southall	Our Quaker Heritage
Sewell	The Dragon's Backbone
	Quakers in Scotland
Hochschild	Bury the Chains
R Allen	Yours in Friendship
C Whitmore	Plain Living
Thomas Kelly	A Testament of Devotion
Eddie Askew	A Silence – A Shouting
	No Strange Land
John Yungblatt	Discovering God Within
Teilhard de Chardin	Le Milieu Divin
Matthew Fox	Original Blessing
Basil Pennington	Lectio Divina
Sandra Cronk	Dark Night Journal
Gunaratana	Mindfulness in Plain English
J Bartok	More Daily Wisdom
Eileen Flanagan	The Wisdom to Know the Difference
E Tolle	Stillness Speaks
Erwin Lazlo	You Can Change the World
John Lane	Timeless Simplicity
Oliver James	Affluenza
Mark Boyle	The Moneyless Man
Harrison & Mendius	Buddha's Brain

Please remember to sign out all books and sign them in when you return them

Cynthia Baron

## CHELTENHAM MEETING LIST OF MEMBERS AND ATTENDERS

Some of you may have been wondering why there hasn't been a new list of Members and Attenders published since the 'yellow book' was produced in March 2012.

The reason for the delay is that Quaker Yearly Meeting is in the process of developing a new secure web based service called QList which will enable Meetings to manage their own contact and membership lists. This is a very useful development and will mean each meeting no longer has to design their own system to manage the Meeting's contact information.

It will also be possible to generate contact lists from QList but unfortunately this development is taking longer to create than anticipated. I hope this will be done in the next couple of months and my intention is to produce an up to date list using QList in early Autumn.

There have only been a few amendments to the details in the Yellow Book so please continue to refer to this, but if you would like to update your list I am happy to provide information regarding these changes. I can be contacted either by email or by phone.

Evelyn Shaw

## **WHO I AM AND WHY I COME TO MEETING**

### **The text of Alison Crane's talk for Meeting for Learning**

I was brought up in Lancashire, and my father was a vicar in the Church of England, so I was always used to going to church, and continued doing so, with varying degrees of enthusiasm and regularity, until I started going to Quakers.

At school my favourite subject was geography, and my teacher helped me to understand the importance of caring for the environment. I also studied history to A level, but could never understand why countries kept fighting each other. So an interest in peace and the environment started early.

The first Quaker Meeting I went to was a wedding in Derby in 1980, and although I liked the Quakers, I was uncomfortable with the meeting, with nothing to look at except each other! I met other Quakers during the 80s as active people in the Peace movement. In 1984 I was living in Surrey, married with two young children, and looking for part-time work opportunities. I started working for a few hours a week for the Reigate Quaker Housing Association, and was given a copy of *Advices and Queries*. I really liked the values, and the way they are expressed – using words like “consider”, and emphasising integrity. I went to Quaker meetings on Sundays occasionally during this time, but my main experience of Quaker meetings was the Housing Association meetings using the Quaker business method – which impressed me very much.

When I moved to Stafford in 1989 I sought out the Quaker meeting, and again met Quakers through my peace and environmental activities. When Jenni Edwards visited the Meeting in the mid 90s as part of her travelling ministry, I went to a lot of the events, and after that started attending Meeting regularly on a Sunday, instead of going to church. I became a member in 1997.

I really can't answer the question “why I come to meeting” in isolation. Meeting for Worship is the central Quaker experience, but the reason I am a Quaker is that there is much more to it than a once a week activity – it's a way of life – it's about trying to live authentically, in accordance with the Quaker testimonies, and really taking responsibility for helping things to go well - in the world, with other people, and in the Quaker community.

In a few words, the reasons I come to Meeting are for nurture and community, and to check and change the central heating programmer. That last reason sounds like a simple (or not so simple) practical job, but to me it's a metaphor for all this – it's making sure that we are all warm enough, making sure that the other people who use our building are warm enough, but not wasting heat, not using fossil fuels and emitting carbon dioxide unnecessarily when the building isn't in use. And taking responsibility for making it happen. Done in that frame of mind, it's my ministry, and a spiritual experience.

Other people in these talks have mentioned being influenced by other Quakers, but not really explained why, so I'd like to expand a bit on my experience. The first Quaker I met after that Derby experience was in Berkshire, organising taking food and fuel to the recently arrived Greenham Common women. A good example of taking responsibility, but I also loved the way she just accepted me, without knowing me, starting from an assumption that I was ok, and she could trust me – really seeing that of God in me, so that it made it all the more likely that I would respond positively.

Similarly, when I came to Cheltenham 4 years ago, I was accepted. I am radical in my stance on nonviolent direct action, active in encouraging low-carbon lifestyles, and open in living in a same sex relationship. All these things are absolutely in line with Quakerism, but still Quakers don't expect always to agree with each other; and I arrived here with these agendas, so Cheltenham Quakers were not aware of any discernment that I had done as a Quaker in Stafford. Nevertheless, I feel I have the support of the Meeting.

I love the way that Quakers accept each other, and others non-judgementally – but it's not an anything goes liberalism, it's being open to new light, it's rooted in the testimonies, and above all it's seeing that of God in everyone.

I am also very impressed and excited to be part of Quakerism as a prophetic pioneering community - Historic and modern day Quakers who challenge the norms of society as their Quaker witness. In terms of social justice from Mary Hughes to Jonathon Dale, in terms of care for the earth from John Woolman to Pam Lunn, in terms of active nonviolence from William Penn to Helen Steven. Faith into action.

## **CHELTENHAM QUAKER MEETING – ASSOCIATED GROUPS**

Friends may find it helpful to know about groups associated with our Meeting. If there are any errors or omissions, please contact Tim Howarth, or another Pastoral Friend. We need your help to keep it up to date.

- 1. Art Group** – meets Wednesdays /each week at FMH at 2.00 pm. Informal creativity, using any medium, beginners welcome. This is a small group, and we would welcome more people. Contact Jack Danes. *Open group.*
- 2. Book Club** - meets monthly on Wednesdays at 2.30 pm at Margaret Cooper’s house, to consider thoughtful books. Contact David Clayton – *Open group*
- 3. Healing Group** – is currently laid down, but hopes to resume in Autumn 2013. Contact Maureen Steffen
- 4. Light Groups** – there are at present three Light Groups, which meet every few weeks to listen to “Experiment with Light” guided meditations by Rex Ambler, and then share reflections on the experience. These groups are necessarily small and are currently *closed* to new members, but if there is sufficient interest, it may be possible to start a new group. For more information about Light Groups, contact Janet Weyers or Maureen Steffen.
- 5. Meetings for Worship** are held in the homes of friends who may be unable to attend worship at the Meeting House. For more information, contact an Elder.
- 6. Peace Group** – meets intermittently at present. The group is concerned with all matters of peace and justice, aware that peace is not solely an absence of war. We campaign against spending money on nuclear arms and drones instead of socially useful projects. We also support Area Meeting Peace Group, and attend ecumenical peace vigils. Contact Cynthia Baron. *Open group*
- 7. Prayer group** – an ecumenical group founded in 2000, which meets monthly to read and worship-share spiritual books. Currently (May 2013) the group is part-way through its cycle and is *closed* to new members. In Spring 2014 when it begins a new cycle the group will welcome and be *open* to new members, up to a maximum of 8 people. It will meet at the home of Jacek Weyers. Contact Jacek Weyers.
- 8. Walking group** – meets Saturdays once a month at various venues. Walks approx 6 miles. Contact Richard Lacock. *Open group*

## Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas August 4<sup>th</sup> to November 24<sup>th</sup>

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
Aug. 4th	Elaine Boulter	Margot Roe	Tim Howarth
Aug. 11th	June Drummond	Janet Weyers	Philip Paull
Aug. 18th	Rowland Carson	Lydia Sutcliffe	Dorothy Carson
Aug. 25th.	Jo Teakle	Julie Stubbs	Margaret Sheldrick
Sept. 1st	Jane Brighton	Mike Lang	Jo Teakle
Sept. 8th.	Alison Crane	Richard Lacock	Cynthia Baron
Sept. 15th	Judy Roles	Elaine Boulter	Pat Dannahy
Sept 22nd	Jack Danes	Margaret Danes	Brenda Judge
Sept. 29th	Julie Stubbs	Sal Drummond	Maureen Steffen
Oct. 6th	Tim Howarth	Iris Terrell	Margot Roe
Oct. 13th	Sal Drummond	Pat Dannahy	Ian Brighton
Oct. 20th	Ann Caro	Ruth Baker	Nina Odescalchi
Oct. 27th.	Philip Paull	Janet Weyers	Richard Lacock
Nov. 3rd	Joy Heaven	Jill Vyle	Chris Vyle
Nov. 10th	Dorothy Carson	Nancy Sentance	Rowland Carson
Nov. 17th	Maureen Steffen	Lydia Sutcliffe	Mary Neville
Nov. 24th	Janet Weyers	Jane Brighton	Margaret Sheldrick

If a date is not convenient to you please arrange to swap with someone else on the list or contact Bill Rowland.

**Doorkeepers**, you will need to arrive just after 10 am. Please read the list of instructions which is in the wooden rack on the wall by the door into the garden.

**Teamakers**, Please bring milk and biscuits, you will need 2 pints of milk. Lay out cups and saucers and preheat the water before Meeting. Please take your expenses from the dish for contributions. It might be a good idea to ask a friend to help you.

If, in doing the 'teas' you spot anything in need of repair or replacement in the Kitchen please contact a member of the Premises Committee.