

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

NOVEMBER 2013

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.

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

October			
Wednesday	23	4.00pm	Premises Committee
Wednesday	30	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
November			
Sunday	3	12 noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	10	1.00pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Cheltenham QMH
Sunday	17	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Wednesday	27	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Monday	28	7.00pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends

Meeting for Learning: The autumn series of Meetings for Learning will be on the theme of Giving and Receiving. The meeting this month, on 17 November, will be on Listening and Speaking, led by Ruth Baker.

NOVEMBER COLLECTION is for Acorns Children's Hospice Trust. This charity provides invaluable respite care and end of life care for life limited children. In addition they give on-going family support for parents, siblings and grandparents. They offer specialist care and support at three hospices (at Selly Oak, Walsall and Worcester) and through a community team who offer support at home. Donations to: Acorns Children's Hospice, Drakes Court, Alcester Road, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6JR . Tel: 01564 82 5000. Website: www.acorns.org.uk

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.

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.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB

The Quaker Book Club meets on the last Wednesday of every month at Margaret Coopers at 2.30pm.

The book we are looking at during the October and November meetings is "*Search for Reality in Religion*", by John Macmurray, Swarthmore Lecture.1965.

We look at books to encourage us on our spiritual journey. There is careful thought, laughter, tea and talk! We give you a warm welcome.

If you require any further information please contact David Clayton.

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 19 November at the latest

Web address: http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/current_cq.pdf

NOTES FROM OCTOBER LOCAL MEETING

Spiritual Adventure in 2014: A weekend has been arranged to take place at Charney Manor 20-22 June 2014. The title will be 'The Wider Meaning of Ministry'. The cost will be £190 for a single room and £365 for a twin room, with bursary help available. More details in due course.

Solar panels: Premises Committee have prepared a document which tells us about the process we have gone through for the installation of the solar panels, the amount of savings on fuel we expect to receive, and also how the system works. This document will be in the information file in the library.

NOTES FROM OCTOBER AREA MEETING

Membership: We recorded the death of James Rowan (Cheltenham). James had been ill for some time before his death.

Bonnie Grotjahn was welcomed from South East London AM and will be attached to Stroud LM.

Wendy Wynne-Eayton has moved from Cirencester to North Wales AM.

Meeting for Sufferings report included an item on donations to Yearly Meeting. It is suggested that an average contribution of £150 per member, with the funding from legacies, investments and legacies etc, would cover the cost of our Quaker work. This would not cover the amount needed by LM and AM.

Revision of the Quaker Book of Discipline: the process of deciding whether it is time to begin revising *Quaker Faith & Practice* was begun with a working session in small groups.

Nominations and Appointments: It was agreed to appoint Sal Drummond (Cheltenham) as AM Assistant Clerk (Membership) and Gary Dermody (Forest of Dean) as Pastoral Friend.

More information on all these items can be found in the AM Minutes available online, or in the information folder in the Meeting House Library.

QUAKER-RUN ACCOMMODATION FOR OLDER PEOPLE

Not all friends will be aware that the Quaker Housing Trust provides details of Quaker-run accommodation for older people. Although there are many schemes, unfortunately none is in Gloucestershire. If you would like more information, their website address is <http://www.qht.org.uk/>, or please ask a Pastoral Friend.

Tim Howarth

CONCERT AT GLOUCESTER MEETING HOUSE

A concert of Early English music and song, in aid of Gloucester Meeting House funds, will be held on Saturday 16 November starting at 7.30pm. More information from Judy Roles or Elyn Mitchell.

A WORKSHOP on End of Life Care will be held at Gloucester Meeting House on Saturday 16 November starting at 11am and finishing mid afternoon, with space for a picnic lunch. Contact Pat and Andrew Turrall for further details.

THE FRIEND OFFER

The Friend is currently offering a free eight week trial subscription. This weekly Quaker magazine offers a unique collection of Quaker news, insight and inspiration, from Britain and around the world. It is normally £6.50 a month. The offer will expire on 31 December. If you are interested send your name, address and postcode, daytime telephone number in case there are any queries, and email address if you have one in case you decide to take an internet subscription in the future, to Penny Dunn, The Friend, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. *The Friend* will be sent to you. *The Friend* is a registered charity.

WHO I AM AND HOW BEING A QUAKER AFFECTS MY LIFE

The text of Jane Brighton's presentation at our Meeting for Learning

I always had a catholic education; from the age of four to eighteen I attended convents staffed mainly by nuns. I was surrounded as a small child by the rich imagery of the catholic church: the heavy cross of the crucifixion, the painted blood and the gold drapery of the saints, the smell of incense and the chanting of the nuns in the dark chapel. Sometimes the paintings and statues were of the Holy Ghost or the Virgin Mary, aloof on a high pedestal and representing the impossible ideal of virgin and mother. They always seemed to be high up and located in dark corners so that to come suddenly on one was frightening to a small child. To this day, the memory of these catholic symbols evokes the image of Benedictine nuns, a sense of guilt and the smell of polish, incense and sanctity.

I remember the different feeling evoked by a reproduction of 'The Snowstorm' by Turner that I saw in a school library book; the enveloping light was awesome and exhilarating and seemed to me to evoke a sense of the spiritual more powerfully than that of religious art in church establishments. Later on, as an adult, I read C.G. Jung and was reminded of my catholic education by his statement:

'Religion is a defence against a religious feeling'

As an avid reader, I found books that made me doubt and then reject the teachings of the Church; it was not until my forties when I found the Quakers that I could attend a religious meeting.

I found J.S. Mills 'On Liberty' in the school library and read the chapter 'On the Subjugation of Women' which answered some of my questions about women's lack of voice in the church as well as in the outside world.

I studied Socrates and his questioning of the perceived wisdom of the Establishment.

I discovered my grandfather's collection of 'The Golden Bough' - the history of world religions and superstitions - and found the theme of the virgin birth, the trinity and the rebirth of the king a common thread running through primitive religions and not unique to the church.

At eighteen I won a place at the Slade School of Fine Art in London, where I studied for four years. At twenty I married a medical student and as we had another year in London before he qualified I went to teacher training for a post-grad year. We then went to work in Uganda for four years.

We set up a commune at Postlip Hall in Winchcombe with two other couples when we returned. This was the dream of organic self-sufficiency of 'The Good Life' of the seventies - ideal for our three small boys and room to paint.

I commuted to Goldsmiths in London to study art therapy, went into Jungian analysis and when the marriage broke up I left the commune after fourteen years there.

In Cheltenham I found the Quakers. At the first meeting I felt I had found my spiritual home. Their principles of equality, justice, truth, simplicity and peace and their stress on what you do rather than a dogma was something I rejoiced in.

Being a Quaker has supported me in two obvious ways:

In my art therapy work

'There is that of God in everyone'. In this way therapy is a spiritual journey.

In my painting

Quakers see no secular/sacred split. The sacred is all around us. I have painted the same ash tree forty two times and see God's work there.

William Blake expresses this in "Auguries of Innocence" written in 1803

*To see the world in a grain of sand
And heaven in a wild flower;
Hold infinity in the palm of your hand,
And eternity in an hour.*

Blake expresses for me in 'Auguries of Innocence' my experiences of the 'Dark Night of the Soul' when the light is shown in a way I can accept or through another person:

*Every night and every morn
Some to misery are born,
Every morn and every night
Some are born to sweet delight.*

*Some are born to sweet delight,
Some are born to endless night.*

*God appears, and God is light
To those poor souls who dwell in night;
But does a human form display
To those who dwell in realms of day.*

Jane Brighton

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
Dec. 1st	Elaine Boulter	Margot Roe	Tim Howarth
Dec. 8th	June Drummond	Janet Weyers	Philip Paull
Dec. 15th	Rowland Carson	Lydia Sutcliffe	Dorothy Carson
Dec. 22nd.	Jo Teakle	Julie Stubbs	Margaret Sheldrick
Dec. 29th	Jane Brighton	Mike Lang	Jo Teakle
Jan. 5th	Alison Crane	Richard Lacock	Joy Heaven
Jan. 12th	Judy Roles	Elaine Boulter	Pat Dannahy
Jan.19th	Jack Danes	Margaret Danes	Brenda Judge
Jan. 26th	Julie Stubbs	Sal Drummond	Maureen Steffen
Feb. 2nd	Tim Howarth	Iris Terrell	Margot Roe
Feb. 9th	Sal Drummond	Pat Dannahy	Ian Brighton
Feb. 16th	Ann Caro	Ruth Baker	Nina Odescalchi
Feb. 23rd	Philip Paull	Janet Weyers	Richard Lacock
Mar. 2nd	Joy Heaven	Jill Vyle	Chris Vyle
Mar. 9th	Dorothy Carson	Philip Paull	Rowland Carson
Mar. 16th	Maureen Steffen	Lydia Sutcliffe	Ann Caro
Mar. 23rd	Bill Rowland	Jane Brighton	Margaret Sheldrick
Mar. 30 th	Nigel Smith	Jo Teakle	Iris Terrell

If a date is not convenient to you please arrange to swap with someone else on the list

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.

Contact

Bill Rowland