

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

JANUARY 2014

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)

December			
Wednesday	25	10.30-11.00am	Meeting for Worship
January			
Tuesday	7	2.00pm	Meeting of Elders
Monday	13	7.30pm	Meeting of Liaison Group
Sunday	19	12 noon	Meeting for Learning — see below
Thursday	23	7.00pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends
Wednesday	29	7.00	Meeting of Area Meeting Elders
February			
Sunday	2	12.00noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	9	2.00pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business (at Wotton-under-Edge)

Meeting for Learning: Sunday after Meeting for Worship on Sunday 19 January. Pat Dannahy writes: Continuing our theme of inclusion, and using housing as an example, Alison Crane will lead us in a session with the title: "Welfare reform - demonising the poor?"

Please note there will be no **Local or Area Meetings for Worship for Business** in January.

JANUARY COLLECTION is 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. More than half the panels are housed in a special museum in Kendal. Funds are needed for ongoing improvements to the exhibition, for staff and volunteer work, and the many travelling exhibitions, such as the one at Ely cathedral last year. The website is www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk. Cheques, made out to Quaker Tapestry Ltd, may be sent to Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria LA9 4BH. Tel:01539 722975
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.

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE IN 2014: A weekend has been arranged to take place at Charney Manor 20-22 June 2014. The title will be '*What is my Ministry: What is Ours?*' and will be facilitated by Zelig Gross from Penarth Meeting, South Wales. The programme should be available for our next newsletter. The cost will be £190 for a single room and £365 for a twin room. Bursary help will be available. £50 deposit for each person will be required on signing up for the weekend. A notice will be put on the notice board in due course and in the mean time, if you have any queries, please ask one of the Elders.

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.

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 20 January at the latest

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

NOTES FROM DECEMBER LOCAL MEETING

Pastoral Friends: Our friend Tim Howarth read his report, which can be seen as *Appendix 1* in the LM Minutes; he commented on the consequences of our ageing membership, and invited wider support from Friends; the Pastoral Friends team is now at full strength; we are reminded to contact Members of the team if we as individuals need more contact; with Pastoral Friends' support, Evelyn Shaw has now completed the Q list. (list of Members and Attenders of our Meeting)

Fair Trade: With the support of Meeting, our friend Alison Crane will be bringing a box of Fairtrade products from Global Footsteps to sell after Meeting for Worship on each fourth Sunday beginning on 26th January.

Finance: Our Treasurer took us through a summary of the actual expenditure and income of the Meeting in 2012 and up to October in 2013 with his forecast the rest of the year and 2014.

Woodbrooke Course for Funeral Friends: Rowland Carson read his report on the course (further information is given below and more details of what was discussed is in the information folder in the library).

NOTES FROM DECEMBER AREA MEETING

More information on LM or AM can be found in the Minutes on News of Friends online, or in the information folder in the Meeting House Library as there is not enough space in this newsletter to do justice to them. They include:

Membership: Barry Wade (Nailsworth). Barry Wade died on Thursday 28 November 2013. His funeral will be held at Westerley Crematorium on Monday 16 December at 11.30.

The Tabular Statement, which records the numbers of friends in our Area Meeting was read out by our retiring Assistant Clerk for Membership, Jean Kent. She noted that we had 288 members in 2013, a decrease of 8. We also have 226 recorded adult attenders and 36 child attenders. She asks that "In order to keep our Area Meeting membership records as accurate as possible all Member changes to Local Meetings and addresses should be passed on to the Assistant Clerk for Membership. For example if a Friend wishes to start worshipping at another Local Meeting and the Membership Clerk is not notified then the numbers of that particular Meeting will be inaccurate. Also the suggested financial contribution asked of the Local Meetings concerned will not reflect the change." Jean's successor is to be Sal Drummond (Cheltenham) to whom any changes to the Area Meeting membership should be sent.

Appointment: QPSW Conference: The names of Gabriel Parlour (Stroud) and Sal Drummond (Cheltenham) were brought and appointed as our representatives at the above conference.

Arrangements for Area Meeting in 2014: Wendy Gerrard has been released from her role of Assistant Clerk to Area Meeting. Area Meeting Nominations Committee has not been able to bring forward a name for the role of Assistant Clerk and has suggested that the following Friends act as assistant to the Clerk (subject to consent) as follows:

9 February 2014	Wotton-under-Edge	Robert Maxwell
8 March 2014	Gloucester	Andrew Turrall
13 April 2014	Painswick	Fiona Meadley
11 May 2014	Forest of Dean	Ann Davison
8 June 2014	Stroud	Frank Bonner

These friends will, it is hoped, assist in compiling the Agenda, and will support the Clerk at the table and attend to routine correspondence. But there are other jobs which need to be done, and it will be entirely in order for other members of the hosting LM to help with e.g. photocopying, preparing Local Meeting packs etc. Other ways of providing support and assistance may occur to Friends. It may well be that experience may show us that some routines could be permanently devolved on the hosting Meeting, which would lighten the administrative load for the AM Clerks.

Area Meeting and Area Meeting Clerk recorded their gratitude to Wendy Gerard for her service, which has always been informed by her wisdom, spiritual strength and knowledge of Quaker right ordering. We are truly grateful.

REPORT ON QUAKER FUNERALS COURSE AT WOODBROOKE 22ND – 24TH NOVEMBER 2013

Dorothy & I attended, sponsored by Cheltenham Quaker meeting. This was the first such course Woodbrooke has held on Quaker Funerals. Partly because of this, we found that we were able to make significant contributions as well as learning new stuff ourselves. We were surprised by the differences of usage in other Meetings — nomenclature, appointment, and practices all differed considerably.

An early exercise was individually completing the statement “A good funeral is one that” There was much agreement, but also some interestingly different views. We considered the need for balance between mourning and celebration. We learned that one does not need to use a funeral director, that coffins can be bought online, and that contrary to popular belief, the Co-op is not always the most economical or caring choice of funeral director. We discussed “funeral poverty” and were reminded that many funeral directors are part of big corporations whose only mandate is to maximise profit. We discussed various preparations in advance of death, and considered how our Meetings may need to support the bereaved long after the funeral — do Funeral Friends liaise enough with Pastoral Friends?

I thought I had got my own funeral wishes sorted out, but after a revelation that the energy used for a single cremation could heat a family home for a week, I am re-considering!

We brought back literature on various topics, for example alternatives such as woodland burials.

Please see Dorothy or me for more information, or to talk about filling in a funeral wishes form.

Rowland Carson

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 www.qht.org.uk or please ask a Pastoral Friend.

Tim Howarth

YEARLY MEETING GATHERING 2-9 AUGUST 2014

This year our YMG will be held at Bath University campus. This is perched on top of a hill overlooking the beautiful Somerset countryside, just outside Bath. The site is flat and accessible and no more than a couple of hundred yards from one end to the other. As always the accommodation offered is from a site to pitch your own tent to ensuite rooms with full board. At the moment all we need to do is note the dates in our diary. As we are fairly near Bath we may decide to go down for day trips – perhaps even a coach could be laid on! Once the programme is available we can decide what parts we wish to attend – there will be plenty on offer for all ages. Up to date news of the gathering can be found on groupspaces.com/quakerymg.

GOOD NEWS FOR OUR MEETING!

We are glad to learn that Dorothy Carson has been appointed as a Trustee for Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. We hope she will feel upheld by our Meeting in this service, and maybe through it we will forge even closer links with this wonderful resource which is almost on our doorstep. Find more info about what is on offer at Woodbrooke on www.woodbrooke.org.uk

LIST OF MEMBERS & ATTENDERS IN CHELTENHAM

A new contact list of members and attenders at Cheltenham Meeting is now ready. Copies will be available after Sunday meeting for worship but if you would prefer an electronic version please email your request to Evelyn Shaw. This is not the same as the “Yellow Book” which covers **all** of the meetings in Gloucestershire Area, but it should be possible to publish the local list more frequently than the area list. The 2 lists are now being maintained using the same central database so (we hope) reducing workload and opportunities for discrepancies.

CHARITY COLLECTIONS 2014

Each month we collect donations to send to a charity which is usually small and/or local. Some are Quaker charities, but not all. Any 'tea money' remaining after expenses have been taken is added to the charity of that month.

Good News! County Community Projects collected enough for two hampers, plus a bit extra. They wish to thank everyone for their contributions.

Jan	Quaker Tapestry (Q) www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk	Maintains display in Kendall and circulates panels
Feb	Global Footsteps (local) www.global-footsteps.org/hq	International cooperation and sustainability
Mar	Hlekweni (Q) www.hlekweni.org	Self reliance and conflict resolution in Zimbabwe
Apr	The Leaveners (Q) www.leaveners.org	Writing, art, theatre, with a Quaker bias
May	Quaker Housing Trust (Q) www.qht.org.uk	Support for housing projects in Britain
June	Friends World Committee for Consultation (Q) www.fwccworld.org	Coordination between Quakers worldwide
July	County Community Projects (local) www.ccprojects.org.uk	Advice, Education, Shelter
Aug	Safe (Q) www.safeproject.org.uk	Supports child victims of crime
Sept	Womankind Worldwide www.womankind.org.uk	
Oct	Scholarships for Street Kids (Q) www.s4sk.org.uk	Education in SE Asia and Burma
Nov	Cheltenham Open Door (local) www.cheltenhamopendoor.org.uk	Christmas shelter
Dec	Great Western Air Ambulance (local) www.greatwesternairambulance.com	Air rescue in Gloucestershire. Unsupported by Government funds