

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

FEBRUARY 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)

January			
Wednesday	29	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's see below
Wednesday	29	7.00	Meeting of Area Meeting Elders
February			
Sunday	2	12.00noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Monday	3	2.00pm	Meeting of Elders
Sunday	9	2.00pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business (at Wotton under Edge)
Sunday	16	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Wednesday	26	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's

Meeting for Learning: Pat Dannahy writes: Continuing our current focus on 'Inclusion', February's Meeting for Learning, to be held at 12noon on Sunday 16 February in the Meeting House, will be led by Nigel Smith, with a focus on 'Disabled students in our Education system'.

FEBRUARY COLLECTION is for Global Footsteps, the education programme for the charity Rendezvous Society which has had links with our Meeting since it was set up in 1985. It has connections with communities all over the world, and arranges exchange visits for volunteers to both offer their skills and learn from the experience. In Cheltenham it runs a fair trade shop and café, staffed by volunteers. With a long-standing ethos of sustainability and friendship across cultures, its vision is "Grassroots action for a connected world." Money is particularly needed at the moment to complete the refurbishment of their building in Portland St, and to assist the volunteer programme.

You can send a cheque or postal order made out to Global Footsteps to: The Treasurer, Global Footsteps, 16 Portland Street, Cheltenham, GL52 2PB or donate online. The website is <http://www.global-footsteps.org/hq>. Friends can also help Global Footsteps by volunteering in a number of roles, or by becoming a member. More information is available at the shop.

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.

CLOSURE OF PORTLAND STREET AND NORTH STREET CAR PARKS These car parks have been sold to a developer and we have been told that they are closing. However, it is expected that they will open almost immediately under private management until the development starts, thought to be in March. It may be that some parking spaces will be available for longer than that.

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 17 February at the latest

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

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE IN 2014: A residential weekend has been arranged for our Meeting, 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 Zelie Gross from South Wales Area Meeting. During the weekend we hope to:

- Get to know one another in the Spirit and strengthen our sense of community
- Deepen our awareness of spiritual nurture in our worship, including vocal ministry
- Explore our understanding of ministry as service and how we share our gifts
- Think about communications in our meeting: how can we make being in touch in many different ways work for us as a meeting?
- Discover ways of supporting one another on our spiritual journeys

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. Look out for the notice on the notice board; if you have any queries, please ask one of the Elders.

CHELTENHAM MEETING CONTACT LIST

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.

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

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 <http://groupspaces.com/quakerymg>

STAMPS FOR QPSW

A volunteer group, meeting at Friends House, has for many years been sorting and selling used stamps for funds for Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW). Many thousands of pounds have been raised in this way. If you have any **foreign** stamps would you please cut them off the envelope leaving a quarter of an inch all round the stamp and give them to June Drummond, who will send them off. Unfortunately British stamps of any kind are not needed as the stamp dealers do not want them.

QUAKER BOOK CLUB

This group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at Margaret Cooper's at 2.30pm. The book for January is *The Voyageur* by Margaret Elphinstone.

We consider books that will encourage us on our spiritual journey. Here is careful thought, laughter, tea and talk. If you require any further information please contact David Clayton or Margaret Cooper.

NEW EDITION OF QUAKER FAITH & PRACTICE

Amendments to chapter sixteen in the fifth edition of QF&P have just been published. The latest edition of QF&P is now available in e-book formats, including Kindle and iPad. It is offered online and audio versions will be available.