

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

MARCH 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)

<b>February</b>			
Wednesday	26	2.30pm	<b>Quaker Book Club</b> at Margaret Cooper's see below
<b>March</b>			
Sunday	2	12.00noon	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Tuesday	4	2.00pm	<b>Meeting of Elders</b>
Thursday	6	7.30pm	<b>Meeting of Pastoral Friends</b>
Sunday	8	2.00pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business</b> at Gloucester QMH. See below
Sunday	16	12 noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b>
Sunday	23	12 noon	<b>Fifth Sunday Talk</b> see below
Wednesday	26	2.30pm	<b>Quaker Book Club</b> at Margaret Cooper's

**Area Meeting for Worship for Business:** will be at Gloucester Meeting House on Sunday 8 March starting at 2.00pm. It will be preceded by a talk at 11.00am by Jamie Wrench on 'Crime, Community and Justice'

**Fifth Sunday:** Please note that the event after Meeting for Worship will take place on the fourth rather than fifth Sunday. [*Publisher's Note: In the printed copy, the March event was incorrectly shown as a presentation by Andrew & Sally Feyi-Waboso; that is actually scheduled for 29 June. Searches of the Local Meeting minutes for several months back have not revealed any decision about what is happening on 23 March.*]

**MARCH COLLECTION** is for Hlekweni Friends Rural Service. This is a Quaker-founded Zimbabwean Welfare Organisation, which has been working with rural Zimbabwean communities to develop sustainable livelihoods and promote appropriate technology and conservation farming since 1967. Hlekweni's mission is to give practical expression to Quaker testimonies in the most impoverished communities of Zimbabwe. The work has a special focus on promoting reconciliation and nonviolence. Do look at their lovely 5 minute video! Donations can be sent to Friends of Hlekweni, The Quaker Centre, 1 Oakley Gardens, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 9BH. [info@friendsofhlekweni.org.uk](mailto:info@friendsofhlekweni.org.uk). Website is [www.hlekweni.org](http://www.hlekweni.org).

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.

## CLOSURE OF PORTLAND STREET CAR PARK

This car park is closed for the time being but may open again under private management. There is still parking in the North Place Car Park.

**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 March** at the latest

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

## **KINDLERS WORKSHOP – Vocal Ministry in Meeting**

*‘Spoken ministry in the Spirit is remembered forever. How do we find that discernment?’*

There will be a one day workshop on **Saturday 15 March** at Friends House, London, on **VOCAL MINISTRY IN MEETING**. Elders would like **to offer one or two people the chance to go to this event**. It starts at 10.30am, refreshments from 10.00am, and ends at 4.30 for tea and 5.00pm finish. It will be led by Elizabeth Brown and Alec Davison. Please speak to an elder for more details or to register an interest. Expenses will be met.

## **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?’*.

The weekend will be facilitated by Zelie Gross. Zelie has written: *My partner Philip and I worship at a small meeting in Penarth, South Wales, just a short walk from where we have lived for the past eight years. I have been a Friend for 28 years, and I count that from my very first meeting for worship at Redland Meeting in Bristol, when I knew I had found my spiritual home. In that time I have served my meetings and the wider Religious Society in numerous interesting and challenging ways, though none more surprising than my current occupation of writing a book (my first full length publication) on eldership and oversight. The Quaker service I most enjoy is working with Friends and meetings in their learning and development as Friends, which happens through my teaching for Woodbrooke and in various ways with Quaker Life. I am very much looking forward to working with Cheltenham Friends in this spirit at Charney Manor.*

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.

## **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.

If you would like to go down for the day on a coach, please look at the timetable and see which day you would prefer. The cost will be £35 per person to attend YMG as well as the cost of the coach. If you would be willing to **help with the organisation of the trip**, please let our clerks (Ian Brighton and Pat Dannahy) know as soon as possible, as it is hoped that bookings will be in by 31 March.

BYMG organisers are hoping to have **volunteers** who will help them both before the Gathering starts, to prepare welcome packs, and during, for many posts such as doorkeeping and showing Friends to their accommodation on arrival. If you think you can help, please contact Judy Roles.

Up to date news of the gathering and the timetable can be found on <http://groupspaces.com/quakerymg>

## **QUAKER BOOK CLUB**

This group meets on the last Wednesday of every month at Margaret Cooper’s at 2.30pm. 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.

## **NOTES FROM FEBRUARY LOCAL MEETING**

Our Treasurer took us through his reasons for considering moving our finances from Santander to Triodos Bank. Meeting agrees to our Treasurer proceeding to a deeper review of the benefits/downsides of this and returning to us to a subsequent Local Meeting to offer more detail and a possible recommendation

## NOTES FROM FEBRUARY AREA MEETING

**Pastoral Friends:** Claire King was appointed as a Pastoral Friend, and at their request, Joy Heaven, Jill Main and Nina Odescalchi were released from their ministry. In view of her changed circumstances Cynthia Baron was also released.

**Area Meeting Membership Clerk:** Sal Drummond has been appointed to this post. She has to log all changes to our membership, including deaths, marriages, number of children attending our Meetings, addresses, including email addresses, movement in and out of the Area Meeting, changes of Friends from one Meeting to another within the Area Meeting and more. Quite a task!

**Conservation of Books:** Graham Dowding of Nailsworth Meeting gave us a talk about his conservation of some books, owned by the Meeting, dating from the mid eighteenth century. It was fascinatingly illustrated by showing us the books and some of their contents.

## QUAKER SERVICE MEMORIAL TRUST EXHIBITION

The QSMT has been involved in the setting up of the stone memorial in the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire, commemorating service in the Friends Ambulance Unit and Friends Relief Service during and after WW1. They have put together an exhibition, which is to visit our area in May/June this year, showing Friends' relief work – WW1 is just one episode of nearly two centuries of relief work under Friends auspices, starting with the Irish famines in the 1840s.

The exhibition is to be shown in Gloucester Cathedral 1-17 May, and other venues thereafter.

We are exploring the possibility of having the display in Cheltenham General Hospital 7-14 June and would welcome **volunteers** who could attend when convenient to answer any queries and be a Quaker presence. This should not be onerous, as the exhibition does not have to be officially 'manned', but it would certainly be desirable. **Any help with the initial organisation** would be gratefully received – contact Dorothy Carson in the first instance.

**ECUMENICAL PRAYER GROUP** will start a new cycle of meetings from Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> of April 2014

at Jacek Weyer's home. The meetings will be based on Gerard Hughes' book:- *God of Surprises* which Gerald Priestland, broadcaster and Quaker, described it as "one of the great books of spiritual guidance". We will share our spiritual insights from the book in a prayerful manner.

We meet on the second Tuesday of each month starting on the 8 April 2014 at 10.00 am to 11.30 for about 12 months. For more information phone Jacek Weyers. New Members very welcome.

## Doorkeeping, Flowers and Teas 6 April to 27 July

Date	Doorkeeping	Flowers	Teas
April 6th	Pat Dannahy	Mike Lang	Tim Howarth
April 13th	June Drummond	Janet Weyers	Philip Paull
April 20th	Rowland Carson	Lydia Sutcliffe	Dorothy Carson
April 27th	Jo Teakle	Julie Stubbs	Margaret Sheldrick
May 4th	Jane Brighton	Margot Roe	Jo Teakle
May 11th	Alison Crane	Elaine Boulter	Joy Heaven
May 18th	Judy Roles	Richard Lacock	Margaret Cooper
May 25th	Jack Danes	Margaret Danes	Brenda Judge
June 1st	Julie Stubbs	Pat Dannahy	Maureen Steffen
June 8th	Tim Howarth	Iris Terrell	Margot Roe
June 15th	Nina Odescalchi	Sal Drummond	Ian Brighton
June 22nd	Ann Caro	Ruth Baker	Nina Odescalchi
June 29th	Philip Paull	Janet Weyers	Richard Lacock
July 6th	Joy Heaven	Jill Vyle	Chris Vyle
July 13th	Dorothy Carson	Philip Paull	Rowland Carson
July 20th	Nigel Smith	Lydia Sutcliffe	Ann Caro
July 27th	Jo Teakle	Jane Brighton	Margaret Sheldrick

## PASTORAL FRIENDS' REPORT

Pastoral Friends have asked that their report to Business Meeting in December on their activities and concerns over the last year be carried in the newsletter. They ask particularly for the support of all Friends, both in their prayers and by providing them with information about themselves or others which could help us in their task.

*We meet* every 6 weeks or so, currently in this room, (CQMH) in an evening. The meetings always begin with silence in the manner of Friends, and close in the same way. As we close we read the names of Friends taken from a portion of the Meeting List and hold them in the light.

1. Recently there have been only 7 active Pastoral Friends, down from our full complement of 10. However, 3 new members of the team were appointed at the last Area Meeting, so we are now at full strength, which is excellent.
2. The job of a Pastoral Friend is as extensive as one wishes to make it, centred around trying to build our community. We are acutely aware of our limitations, and the need to prioritise. We are all volunteers, and our time and our skills are limited. The list of responsibilities of overseers set out in Faith and Practice is very long, and we have had to discern which of these we should focus on.
3. A central one is the need to support individual friends. As people get older they tend to need more help, and at present we have an increasing number in such need. Although as Pastoral Friends we do often provide such support ourselves, it is in fact the responsibility of all of us in Meeting to do this, and we see it as sufficient if we know that support is being given by one or more people who are not Pastoral Friends.
4. To try to work more effectively, we work in pairs or threes, and as such take responsibility for particular friends. We are conscious that many friends are very independent, and do not want to feel they are being checked up on or placed under a duty to be at meeting. As individual Pastoral Friends, we are not always at meeting ourselves so do not necessarily pick up if someone has been absent for some weeks. It is therefore important to see pastoral care as a two-way process, and if friends would like more contact with their Pastoral Friends they do need to say so.
5. Another important aspect of our work is to try to help new enquirers feel welcome, and as involved as they wish to be, without feeling unwelcome pressure.
6. We have supported Evelyn Shaw who is one of our number, in her heroic task of updating and editing the membership list, now to be part of the national Q-list. This is due to be finished shortly. (see below, ed)
7. We have introduced Label Sundays on the first Sunday of each month, like today, and these have generally proved popular, not least with the many of our number who have a poor memory for names!
8. We have also arranged occasional social events, last January and in June. A Carol Meeting is planned for the Saturday before Christmas, and a further social in the New Year.
9. If you have any suggestions or comments about what Pastoral Friends are or are not doing, we would ask you to let us know please. We are well aware that we can always do our job better, and input from other friends will always be welcome and considered carefully.

If you would find it helpful to have a list of which Pastoral Friends are responsible for particular Friends, and/or you would like the latest edition of the Cheltenham Quaker Meeting Contact List, please contact Evelyn Shaw by phone or e-mail.

Pastoral Friends invite all in Meeting along to an evening gathering to share music, poetry, food and fellowship on Thursday 3rd April starting at 7pm.

If you enjoy singing, there's an opportunity to join in songs from the Quaker Songbook. To help us on our way, Judy Roles is running three singing evenings beforehand on **27th Feb, 12th and 25th March**, all from 7.30 – 9 in the Meeting House. Please sign the sheet on the notice board or e-mail Judy if you are interested in singing or playing along.

If you would like to contribute a poem or short story, please sign the list or email with details of your choice. We intend to offer refreshments during the evening. If you can **offer help with this**, please speak to a PF. We hope you can join us.

Pastoral Friends