

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

SEPTEMBER 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 two of the Children's Meeting volunteers.

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

August			
Sunday	24	morning	Food Bank collection
Sunday	24	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	24	after Meeting	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Friday	29	10.30 am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Cafe
September			
Monday	1	2.00pm	Meeting of Elders
Sunday	7	12 noon	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Tuesday	9	7.00pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Nailsworth FMH
Thursday	11	7.30pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends
Friday	12	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Cafe
Sunday	21	1.00-5.00pm	Cheltenham Meeting Open Day see below
Wednesday	24	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Friday	26	1.30pm	Area Peace Group at Gloucester FMH
Friday	26	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Cafe
Sunday	28	morning	Food Bank collection
Sunday	28	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	28	after Meeting	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Monday	29	7.00pm	Meeting of Liaison Group

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

SEPTEMBER COLLECTION is for Womankind. This charity is working within communities to change the discrimination, poverty and violence women face in Africa, Asia and Latin America just because they are female. It works with women's rights organisations by providing expert training and information, networking, as an NGO at the United Nations and in many other ways. Donations can be given via the website

www.womankind.org.uk or by phone on 020 7549 0360 or send a cheque made payable to Womankind Worldwide to: Womankind Worldwide, Development House, 56-64 Leonard Street, London EC2A 4LT. 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 19 August** at the latest

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

SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE WEEKEND FOLLOW UP

Coffee Mornings in people's homes: The first was at Rowland and Dorothy's home on Thursday 31 July. It is hoped more Friends will hold coffee mornings in their own homes, either open to all Friends and family or just to local Friends, perhaps asking neighbours to join them, depending on the space available.

Worship Sharing Meetings to consider any current topic or concern have started after Meeting on the fourth Sunday.

Coffee mornings at Footsteps Café, Winchcombe Street. We hope to establish a regular get together of Friends at Footsteps Café, taking place twice a month from 10.30am. We hope this will be a meeting place for all in the Meeting, and help us grow in fellowship and friendship, so please come if you can. We plan to meet on the second and last Fridays in the month to coincide with the Farmer's Market held in Cheltenham.

Because of flooding in the basement, Footsteps Café has had to close for a while, but we hope it will be open in time for the 29th August get together. More details from Janet Weyers and Jo Teakle.

HERITAGE OPEN DAYS: 12-14th September.

Nailsworth, Cirencester, and Gloucester Meeting Houses will be open on those days.

CHELTENHAM MEETING OPEN DAY

As part of our contribution to **Quaker Week 2014** we are holding an Open Afternoon at the Meeting House on Sunday 21st September from 1.00 pm to 5.00 pm to coincide with Cheltenham Green Doors weekend. We are inviting along those who hire the Meeting House so that we can meet and share with them. As well as tea and cakes, we are planning an outreach display with short films about Quaker beliefs and work, alongside an energy display. We would appreciate offers of help to provide cake, make tea and greet our visitors. Please sign up on the notice board or email Nigel Smith if you can help drnismith@hotmail.com.

Cheltenham Green Doors is taking place over that weekend, sharing knowledge about sustainable living by homes, other buildings and gardens opening to the public on either the Saturday or Sunday, 20th or 21st. Our solar pv panels, as well as generating electricity from the sun, have given us experience that we can share on planning applications for this sort of technology in a Conservation Area. We will also show our central heating programmer which allows us to set each day differently, and our new LED lighting. Around 30 venues will be open on either Saturday or Sunday. Check them out at <http://www.cheltenhamgreendoors.org.uk/>

QUAKERS: FOOD BANK COLLECTION

At Local Meeting we agreed to make a regular monthly donation of food to the Cheltenham Food Bank at Elim Church on St. George's Road. Like most Food Banks this is regulated by the Trussell Trust.

Friends are asked to bring a contribution of **non-perishable food** to Meeting on the 4th Sunday of each month, and I will deliver the goods to the Food Bank on the following Friday. If I am unable to be at Meeting on the 4th Friday Julie Stubbs will take charge of collection and delivery.

I include a suggestions list from the Food Bank as to acceptable items. Initially we are not seeking to organise this in any way, as anything will be welcome and overlaps won't matter.

As we shall be taking this on as a regular commitment it's inevitable that some Friends will miss a 4th Sunday. Please don't bring contributions at any other time, as we are unable to manage storage of goods.

Shopping List (for guidance)

Milk (UHT or powdered)	Fruit juice (carton)	Sugar (in ½ kilo bags)
Soup	Pasta sauces	Sponge pudding (tinned)
Tomatoes (tinned)	Cereals	Rice pudding (tinned)
Tea bags	Instant coffee	Instant mashed potato
Rice	Pasta	Tinned meat
Tinned fish	Tinned fruit	Jam
Biscuits	Snack bars	

Ann Caro

BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING GATHERING

Nigel Smith has taken a film of the Quaker Legacy Garden at Bath University. It can be seen on <http://youtu.be/1J5hnVzkJ54>

DUTIES ROTA

The number of Friends who have put themselves down to help with doorkeeping, teas and flowers has diminished recently and our compiler of the list, Bill Rowland, is in need of more volunteers. Most people who do one or more of these small tasks enjoy it, and the more people volunteer, the less often they are called on to help. Please contact Bill if you would like to find out more, or put your name on the list.

Also, please, if you are on the list and can't help on the day, ask someone else to change with you. It makes it very difficult for everyone if no one turns up to do doorkeeping or teas, and the table looks so much nicer with some flowers.

CHELTENHAM DOORKEEPING DUTIES: There is an addition to the Doorkeepers duties. It was requested at the recent Liaison Meeting that when newcomers are leaving and not stopping for a drink and a chat after Meeting for Worship that the Doorkeeper should shake their hand. The duty list will be amended accordingly.

Bill Rowland

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.

Tim Howarth

CHELTENHAM QUAKER MEETING – ASSOCIATED GROUPS at July 2014

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 on Wednesdays each week at the Meeting House at 2.00 pm. Informal creativity, using any medium, and beginners are welcome. This is a small group, and we would welcome more people. Contact Jack Danes. Open Group.
2. **Book Club** – meets on the last Wednesday of every month at the home of Margaret Cooper. We consider books that will encourage us on our spiritual journey. All are welcome. Contact Margaret Cooper. Open Group.
3. **Healing Group** – is currently laid down, but hopes to resume when the need arises. 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 are small groups and are currently closed to new members, but new members are welcomed from time to time. Contact Janet Weyers or Maureen Steffen.
5. **Meetings for Worship** are held in the homes of friends who may be unable to attend for worship at the Meeting House. For more information contact an Elder or Pastoral Friend.
6. **Reflective Reading and Prayer Group** – an ecumenical prayer group founded in 2000, which meets on the second Tuesday of each month to read and worship-share spiritual books. This group has about eight members. It meets monthly in approximately annual cycles starting each book. New members are very welcome at the beginning of a cycle. The next one will start about July 2015. Meetings are held at the home of Jacek Weyers. Contact Jacek Weyers.
7. **Searchers Group** – this has been laid down temporarily and will be reconsidered in the autumn.

Pastoral Friends

Cynthia Baron and I discovered this poem in one of her books recently. We both loved it, and I promised to read it in Meeting, instead of an Advice and Query the next Sunday, which I did. It was suggested that it should be printed in the newsletter.

Alison Crane

i am a little church by e e cummings

i am a little church (no great cathedral)
far from the splendor and squalor of hurrying cities
--i do not worry if briefer days grow briefest
i am not sorry when sun and rain make april

my life is the life of the reaper and the sower;
my prayers are prayers of earth's own clumsily striving
(finding and losing and laughing and crying) children
whose any sadness or joy is my grief or my gladness

around me surges a miracle of unceasing
birth and glory and death and resurrection:
over my sleeping self float flaming symbols
of hope, and i wake to a perfect patience of mountains

i am a little church (far from the frantic
world with its rapture and anguish) at peace with nature
--i do not worry if longer nights grow longest;
I am not sorry when silence becomes singing

winter by spring, i lift my diminutive spire to
merciful Him Whose only now is forever:
standing erect in the deathless truth of His presence
(welcoming humbly His light and proudly His darkness)

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