

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JANUARY 2015

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.)

December			
Sunday	21	12 noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Sunday	28	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	28	after Meeting	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
January			
Friday	9	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Cafe
Friday	16	1.30pm	Area Peace Group at Gloucester FMH. All welcome.
Thursday	22	7.00pm	Cheltenham Interfaith Group
Sunday	25	morning	Food Bank collection
Sunday	25	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	25	after Meeting	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Wednesday	28	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Friday	30	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Cafe

Meeting for Learning on 21 December will be on the theme of Thankfulness. There will be no Meeting for Learning in January.

There are no **Local or Area Business Meetings** in January.

Note there will be no **Book Club** in December.

Footsteps Café: If the café is shut because of lack of volunteers, please go down to the café opposite M&S side door, and we will meet there.

JANUARY COLLECTION is for Quaker Voluntary Action, a Quaker charity set up to encourage and support volunteering in UK and abroad. It can give support for projects in local Meetings, organise Working Retreats and has published a directory of work which has been done by Quakers in BYM.

Contributions should be sent to Martin Smith, 1 Holt Lane, Holmfirth, West Yorkshire, HD9 3BW or through the website www.qva.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.

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 January at the latest

Web address: <http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk>

NOTES FROM LOCAL MEETING

News of Friends: We recorded the death of our Friend Ruth West on Wednesday 19 November, aged 98 years. Her funeral was held in the manner of Friends at Cheltenham Crematorium on 2 December. Her ashes will be scattered round the tree in the Meeting House courtyard in due course.

Nominations: As we come to the end of the triennium, there are many places to be filled. In spite of much hard work by Nominations Committee, there still remain vacancies for three Elders and three Pastoral Friends.

However, the following names were brought and agreed for Local Meeting vacancies:

Dorothy Carson as Woodbrooke Correspondent; Ian Brighton as Treasurer; Ann Caro on Premises Committee; Peter Robinson on Premises Committee and also as Librarian; Sal Drummond as CoClerk until April; Iain Main as compiler of the Sunday Duty Rota; Margaret Sheldrick as QPSW correspondent. Vacancies still outstanding can be found in the LM Minutes.

All Age Worship: It was agreed to hold another similar semi-programmed Meeting on the next Fifth Sunday, 29 March, 2015

NOTES FROM AREA MEETING

Membership: Jenn Banfield was welcomed into membership and will be attached to Nailsworth Meeting. It was agreed to accept the transfer in of Clement Jewitt who will be attached to Painswick Meeting.

News of Friends: Judy Roles has been appointed on to the Quaker Life Prison Chaplains Committee.

Nominations: Dinah Clements and Jack Danes (both Cheltenham) were appointed as Elders for the next triennium. Janie Thomas was appointed as Pastoral Friend (Nailsworth).

A name is sought to attend the QPSW conference at Swanwick on 13-15 March. Closing date for bookings is 20 January. Please let an elder or a co-clerk know if you are interested in going.

Peace Group: It is hoped to organise a workshop on 28 February at Gloucester FMH to help prepare us in asking questions about peace in its widest sense of the candidates in the General Election.

Concerning the increasing militarisation in schools, it is hoped a workshop can be offered at next year's conference of RE teachers.

The Way Ahead – the Long Term Framework: This was discussed in small groups and will be continued at the next Area Meeting for Learning to take place in Gloucester FMH on 14 February, starting at 10.15am. It will be a half-day workshop, entitled 'Transformations', and will also celebrate our diversity as Quakers.

QUAKER PEACE WITNESS IN UKRAINE

Following on from the report in *CQ* in September it is noted that FWCC received almost £10,000 in donations. Some of this was used to fund two Friends, Roland Rand from Tallin Worship Group and Misha Roshchin of Moscow Monthly Meeting to visit Ukraine. They had fruitful discussions with peacemakers there and are working on a report of the situation which will include recommendations. Watch *The Friend* for further news on this.