

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

MAY 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. On second and fourth Sundays children can go 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.)

April			
Friday	24	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café see below
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	morning	Food Bank Collection
Sunday	26	After Meeting	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Wednesday	29	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
May			
Friday to Monday	1 to 4		Britain Yearly Meeting at Friends House, London
Sunday	3	After Meeting	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Friday	8	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café see below
Sunday	10	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Staunton Village Hall hosted by Forest of Dean Meeting
Thursday	14	7.30pm	Cheltenham Interfaith see page 3 for details
Friday	15	1.30pm	Area Peace Group Meeting at Gloucester FMH all are welcome
Saturday	16	All day	Spiritual Adventure Day at Woodbrooke see page 5 for programme
Sunday	17	noon	Local Meeting for Learning see below for details
Thursday	21	10.30am	Meeting of Elders
Sunday	24	morning	Food Bank collection
Sunday	24	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	24	After Meeting	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Wednesday	27	2.30pm	Quaker Book Club at Margaret Cooper's
Friday	29	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café see below

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.

Local Meeting for Learning May 17: This Meeting for Learning will take the form of Worship Sharing, giving those who attended the Spiritual Adventure Day at Woodbrooke an opportunity to share the day's experience with each other and with those who were unable to attend. Would those of you who attended Woodbrooke please be prepared to come and share examples of what you learnt, the unexpected, what moved you, difficulties overcome, suggestions arising etc. See page 2 for proposed Meetings for Learning for the rest of the year.

MAY COLLECTION is for Quaker Peace Centre, Cape Town. This charity was set up by Quakers in the 1980s and has grown from one peacemaker funded by Quakers to a stand alone centre with a mostly Quaker board. It aims to work towards building a safe, peaceful society, combatting prejudice and the high level of personal and institutional violence present in modern society. It works mainly in schools in the socio-economically challenged townships in Cape Town. Donations can be made directly through the website www.qpc.org.za or to: c/o Friends Meeting House, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF.

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 18 May at the latest

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

NOTES ON APRIL LOCAL MEETING

Friends Not On Email: we looked at ways to make sure these Friends will get the communications which are sent out on 'News of Friends'. Ann Caro has agreed to print out items sent out in the week and put them into one of the trays in the lobby for Friends to look at on Sundays. Four Friends have agreed to phone round more urgent news. This will come back to our June Meeting for Business to see how it is going.

Cheltenham Green Doors Event: we hope to have an Open Day for this and for outreach on Sunday 13 September afternoon.

Clerking: In view of the imminent birth of her baby, our Co-Clerk Sal Drummond will be taking 'time out' at least until September. Meeting asks that our Co-Clerk Pat Dannahy acts as 'Continuity Clerk', and uses this opportunity to invite Friends to sample the role of Co-Clerk, with 'back-up' from more seasoned Friends as appropriate. We thank Sal Drummond for her contributions as Co-Clerk, and wish her well as she goes through this life-changing event.

Peace Messenger Report: The first AM "Authentic Living" group met this week in Gloucester, with the aim of learning from each other and supporting each other as we live our faith in the world.

The AM Peace Group has identified resources that may be useful to RE teachers, for display at the conferences organised by SACRE in May and June.

The last Peace group meeting was on 13th March, and it meets again on 15th May. All are welcome to these meetings.

NOTES ON APRIL AREA MEETING

Membership: We recorded with sadness the death of Ursula Windsor (Gloucester) on 29th March 2015, at the age of 90.

A testimony to the life of Hugh Ross was read and will be forwarded to Friends House. A copy can be seen as an attachment to the minutes of Area Meeting. In the drawers in the Meeting House lobby.

A Meeting for Worship for Marriage between Madeleine Beale (Nailsworth) and Mark Gardner was appointed to take place on 27 June in Nailsworth Meeting House.

Nominations: Colin Brown (Forest) and Gabriel Parlour (Stroud) will be our Meeting for Sufferings Representatives from May 2015.

Authentic Living Group: Eight Friends met to discuss the formation of an 'authentic living' group. As a sequel to this, AM agreed two approaches for a system of mutual support and upholding Friends' efforts to live faithfully: a Saturday morning AM workshop in October to include hearing from at least two Friends about experiences of their particular passion, and a pattern of one-to-one pairings for those who would find that useful.

Living Adventurously: Rosa Keene wrote about her experience at the 'Living adventurously' event for 8-11-year-olds on 7th-10th April in Essex:

Living adventurously means having fun, meeting new people and trying out new things. I made new friends and we ran down the hill in the sunshine. We climbed a tree that was perfect for climbing. We tried different activities and some were scary. I had to be prepared, to be brave, and to trust others. I saw a rabbit in the grass when I went down the zip wire. We ate outside and on the last night we had marshmallows by the fire.

MEETINGS FOR LEARNING – proposed programme for this year:

Date	Topic	Facilitator
May 17	Feedback from Woodbrooke Spiritual Adventure Day	Elders
June 21	Experiences of the non-theist conference	Ann Caro
July 19	Islam	Judy Roles and Richard Lacock
August 16	Housing	Alison Crane
September 20	History of Quakers – George Fox and the Early Quakers	Margaret Sheldrick
October 18	History of Quakers – Anti-slavery	Jo Teakle
November 15	History of Quakers - Business	Elma Detheridge
December 20	tba	

LIBRARY

As the new librarian I am hoping to arrange for more shelving to display books and pamphlets and to introduce a more user-friendly cataloguing system. Specialist libraries do have difficulties classifying books helpfully; if a book treats both X and Y equally, which should it be classified under? Unless members can suggest a better alternative I would propose to use the system employed by Friends' House.

If any member of Meeting wishes to recommend a book, I believe they contact me, and if budget constraints allow, I then order and install it. Some suitable books are reviewed in *The Friend and Friends' Quarterly*. The Librarian would like to receive a brief review of it for the Newsletter, say 150 to 200 words.

Peter Robinson

CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH Thursday 14 May at FMH starting at 7.30pm features a talk by Barbara Butler, Executive Secretary of Christians Aware, which organises international interfaith encounters.

FAITH & ACTION, a project of Central England Area Meeting in partnership with Birmingham Museum Trust, is on at Birmingham Museum & Art Gallery, Chamberlain Square, B3 3DH, until 7 June this year. It is *Quakers & the First World War: stories of peace, war, conscience, relief and faith*. Aspects of Quaker medical, humanitarian and relief work in Britain and Europe are explored, bringing to life the dilemmas experienced by young Quaker men in deciding what response to bring to the war. See www.birminghammuseums.org.uk for more details.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE QUAKER CAMP

The camp this year will be in the Brecon Beacons from Saturday 22 to 29 August. All Friends and Attenders of all ages and their families are welcome. To find out more, contact Martin Quick of Stroud Meeting.

ALL AGE WORSHIP ON 5TH SUNDAY

We started the worship with music and readings, and finished with music. In between we were invited to put our thoughts on Peace on to the feathers and stick them on the dove.

Photo by Alison Crane

