

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

AUGUST 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.)

July			
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	morning	Food Bank Collection
Sunday	26	noon	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Friday	31	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café see below
August			
Friday	14	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café see below
Sunday	16	noon	Local Meeting for Learning on Nominations see page 2
Sunday	23	morning	Food Bank collection
Sunday	23	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	23	noon	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing
Friday	28	10.30am	Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café see below
Sunday	30	10.30am	All Age Worship shared lunch but no talk see below

There will be no Local or Area Meeting in August

There will be no Interfaith Meeting in August

There will be no Quaker Book Club meeting in July or August

Fifth Sunday - 30 August: Jo Teakle, Philip Paull, Joy Heaven and Nigel Smith will organise a semi-programmed meeting for that day. Meeting would like the focus for this meeting to be themed ahead of time. There will be a shared lunch.

Footsteps Café: (just down from the Meeting House) We meet on 2nd and last Fridays of the month from 10.30am for a sociable get together. Everyone welcome.

AUGUST COLLECTION is for the charity Sight 20:20 Direct. Margaret Sheldrick has sent this information about its work from her son, an eye surgeon, and her daughter-in-law, an occupational therapist, who lead the teams on their trips to Malawi:

The up to date information is that Andrew, Sally and five of their children are in Malawi for the whole of July. They are going to set up the school for the blind for which a lot of groundwork was done on previous visits and will be conducting eye clinics and surgery sessions (not the children, of course!) together with a team of eye surgeons, anaesthetists and optometrists who will be joining them during the month. All these colleagues give their time and expertise freely for the charity. The website is www.sight2020direct.org The address for donations is: Onani Eye Foundation, 3rd Floor Linden Court, The Orchards, Ilex Close, Llanishen, Cardiff, CF14 5DZ 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 17 August** at the latest

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

NOTES ON JULY LOCAL MEETING

The main points are detailed below. Full Minutes for this and AM, with reports, can now be found in the pigeonholes in the lobby.

Nominations: due to a continuing shortage of officers, Nominations Committee was asked to bring names for Funeral Friends, and Supporting Friends with some urgency. There is also a shortage of Elders.

Peace Matters: i) 'The light that pushes me' — the African peace builders exhibition — is in Gloucestershire in August and free until last week in September ie around Peace Day. The Peace Builders come from 9 sub-Saharan African countries and have all experienced some form of violence. The exhibition traces the journeys that have transformed that suffering into a force for social change. Judy Roles has suggested that it be housed in The Interfaith Space at Gloucestershire University. We ask Judy to explore the possibility of it being shown there.

ii) Quaker Week 2015: Nailsworth is the only other Meeting wishing to make anti-Militarisation a concern: they are calling it 'Peace Building'; they have had one planning meeting and have invited us to join with them in our preparation. It was agreed that AM Meeting representatives would liaise with Nailsworth Friends this coming Thursday to see how we might take this forward. Philip Paull, June Drummond and Alison Crane have indicated their willingness to support this initiative. Meeting is eager that we maximise outreach by having an event more accessible to the public than the Meeting House alone.

iii) Good connections with teachers were made at the SACRE conferences in May and June. As a direct result, Judy Roles will be speaking at Great Rissington Primary School about Quaker Faith in Action. She will be reporting in more detail to AM this month.

Quakers' concern about military influence in schools was also on the agenda at the last SACRE committee meeting. The concern was supported and it was agreed that SACRE use the regular circulation email to Head Teachers to raise awareness of this issue and to encourage their schools to promote Peace Day (21 September) or hold a Peace Week. The next Peace Group meeting will be 11 September 1.30pm at Gloucester Meeting House.

Re-naming our 'Children's Room' Our lettings Officer Ann Caro brought her concern, that our name 'Children's Room' did not reflect the potential use of this space. Meeting agreed to re-name it "Elizabeth Fry". Our webmaster Rowland Carson will put this on the website.

NOTES ON JULY AREA MEETING

Membership: we welcomed Ralph Gale into membership. He is attached to Nailsworth Meeting.

Nominations: Gabriel Parlour of Stroud Meeting has been appointed as an Elder and will attend an Elders' course at Woodbrooke.

Other items of interest were: the Meeting for Sufferings report – Gabriel asked us to get in touch with her if they have ideas of how to improve communications between Meetings and MfS; also a Minute from Stroud Meeting about their concern for the effect of cuts on those with learning disabilities. AM Clerk was asked to convene a small group to take this topic further and bring proposals to our next AM.

LOCAL MEETING FOR LEARNING 16 AUGUST

Nominations will be our topic. There are a number of tasks associated with the running of our Meeting and our Meeting House and individuals are appointed by the Meeting to undertake these tasks on the recommendations of our Nominations Committee.

Quaker Faith and Practice 3.22-25 concerns 'Nominations and Appointments' and, at the close of 3.23, stresses how 'it is important that the whole process be open and clearly understood by all who attend [Meeting]'. Therefore the focus of our Meeting for Learning on 16 August will be to explain and clarify, or remind ourselves, of this process. We will look particularly at how it operates in Cheltenham Meeting, incorporating insights based on experience locally over time.

Members of the Nominations Committee will be leading the session, and there will be opportunity for discussion. Please feel free to contact Bill Rowland or Jo Teakle prior to the Meeting for Learning if you have any specific questions or concerns you wish to raise.

Jo Teakle