

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## FEBRUARY 2016

### 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.)

<b>January</b>			
Sunday	24	morning	<b>Food Bank Collection</b>
Sunday	24	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	24	noon	<b>Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing</b>
Friday	29	10.30am	<b>Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café</b> see below
Sunday	31	10.30am	<b>Fifth Sunday</b> semi-programmed Meeting for Worship followed by film see below
<b>February</b>			
Thursday	4	7.30pm	<b>Cheltenham Interfaith Meeting</b> see page 2 for details
Sunday	7	11.50am	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Friday	12	10.30am	<b>Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café</b> see below
Sunday	14	1.30pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business</b> see page 2 for details
Sunday	21	noon	<b>Local Meeting for Learning</b> see below
Sunday	28	morning	<b>Food Bank collection</b>
Sunday	28	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	28	noon	<b>Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing</b>
Friday	29	10.30am	<b>Coffee Morning at Footsteps Café</b> see below
<b>March</b>			
Thursday	3	7.45pm	<b>Meeting of Pastoral Friends</b> at Maureen Steffen's House

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

**Fifth Sunday** on 31 January will be a semi programmed Meeting for Worship on the theme of *Forgiveness*, starting with us singing the hymn *Dear Lord and Father of Mankind*. (QF&P 20.23 Please bring your copy if you have one). Friends are invited to bring prepared readings or minister as moved after this. At noon we shall show the film "*Beyond Forgiveness*" followed by shared lunch.

**Meeting for Learning** Sunday 21 February will be led by Margaret Sheldrick, on *Elizabeth Fry*.

**FEBRUARY COLLECTION** is for Circles UK. This charity works towards the rehabilitation and reintegration of sex offenders. A 'Circle of Support and Accountability' is a group of volunteers from a local community which forms a supportive social network around a sex offender, helping them to recognize patterns of thought and behaviour which could lead to their reoffending, as well as practical guidance on such things as developing social skills or finding appropriate hobbies or interests. Circles work in partnership with the Police, Probation, and other professionals working in the field of child protection. For more details about the work or to donate go to the website [www.circles-uk.org.uk](http://www.circles-uk.org.uk) or write to Abbey House/Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE tel:0118 950 0068

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 15 February** at the latest

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

**AREA MEETING:** Area Meeting on Sunday 14 February at 1.30pm will again be in Cheltenham QMH. Those Friends who took on jobs for the December AM Meeting are asked to do the same again in February, or find another Friend to take their place. Please sign up on the list on the notice board for donations of food. Don't forget you can claim the cost of this expense from the treasurer.

**CHELTENHAM QUAKERS SPIRITUAL ADVENTURE DAY Saturday 23 April** at Gloucester QMH. The theme will be *Spiritual Practices from other Faiths* and will be a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event with tutor Ginny Wall. We will be building on our Spiritual Adventure Day at Woodbrooke last May when we tried out spiritual practices from Ginny Wall's book '*Deepening the Life of the Spirit.*' (Spare copies of these practice sheets are available from elders.)

The cost for the day is expected to be £35 including lunch. Please make a note of the date and **add your name to the sign-up list on the noticeboard** in **January** to reserve a place.

Dinah Clements

**YEARLY MEETING 2016:** This will be held from Friday 27 May – Monday 30 May at Friends House, London. Documents to help us prepare, whether or not we plan to attend, should be available from 6 February from our clerks. The web address will be [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym). This year we are asked to register in advance and details on how to do this will be sent in February.

### **CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH MEETING**

The next meeting will be at 7.30pm on Thursday 4 February at Cheltenham QMH. The speaker will be Richard McKay on "Integrity and Integration". Richard McKay is the parish priest of a Bristol Roman Catholic inner-city parish which hosts an important asylum and refugee office. He is a member of the Diocese of Clifton Interfaith advisory group. His church hosts Ethiopian, Zimbabwean and Syro-Malankara services.

### **VOLUNTEERS REQUESTED**

I was sent, as editor, the following from Laura Murphy, Speech and Language Assistant with the Gloucestershire Care Services NHS Trust. It came by email, so if you are interested in following it up, I suggest you contact the Care Services and check it out with them first:

**Are you looking to volunteer in the community?** The Conversation Partner Scheme aims to reduce the social isolation of people who have a communication problem following a stroke (called Aphasia). Volunteers undertake a short training course and are then paired up with a person with aphasia. The volunteer visits their partner in their home once a week for friendly conversation. The opportunity to have a regular chat with someone who understands their communication difficulty is greatly valued by many people with aphasia. Volunteers also report gaining confidence and greatly enjoying the experience. Quotes from previous volunteers:

"I hope my partner enjoys meeting up as much as I do; I know I volunteered for the scheme to be of help to someone else but I've benefited an awful lot as well."

"I am very happy to be a part of the Conversation Partner Scheme; it's a mutually rewarding experience for you and your partner."

"I'm really enjoying seeing my partner every week; now we've both relaxed and feel comfortable in each other's company the conversation, and laughter is flowing!"

### ***Quaker faith & practice 2.36***

In worship we have our neighbours to right and left, before and behind, yet the Eternal Presence is over all and beneath all. In the depth of common worship it is as if we found our separate lives were all one life, within which we live and move and have our being.

Thomas R Kelly 1938