

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JUNE 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.)

May			
Sunday	22	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	22	noon	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing see below
June			
Sunday	5	11.50am	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	12	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Old Town Hall, Stroud
Sunday	19	noon	Meeting for Learning 'Dementia' followed by shared lunch see page 2 for details of speaker Shelagh Robinson
Friday	24	10.30am	Meeting of Elders
Saturday	25	4.00-7.00pm	Summer Social Event and Strawberry Tea see below
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	noon	Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing

Food Bank Collection: Please note that this is now discontinued. More information in the Local Meeting Minutes.

Summer Social Event on Saturday 25 June 4.00 to 6.00pm, games and strawberry tea at the meeting house, organised by pastoral friends. All welcome.

JUNE COLLECTION is for Carers Gloucestershire This is an independent, Carer led charitable organisation that seeks to empower Carers across the County to promote their rights and enable them to make positive choices to improve the quality of their lives. They offer information, support, advice and advocacy to all Carers in Gloucestershire, including a short breaks service, training and emergency scheme.

Donations can be sent to Carers Gloucestershire, 2nd Floor Messenger House, 35 St Michaels Square, Gloucester, GL1 1HX. Website is www.carersgloucestershire.org.uk. Tel:01452 386283

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.

Quaker faith & practice 2.40

What is the ground and foundation of the gathered meeting? In the last analysis, it is, I'm convinced, the Real Presence of God.

Thomas Kelly 1940

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 20 June at the latest

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

MEETING FOR LEARNING 19 JUNE

Shelagh Robinson, a Friend from Staffordshire Area Meeting, will be leading our Meeting for Learning on 19 June. Since her diagnosis with dementia, she has been active with the Alzheimer's Society, calling for early diagnosis and more support for people with dementia and their carers.

We hope she will help us to consider what we can do to help and support Friends in our Meeting with dementia, and their carers, including consideration of their spiritual life. This may be the start of an exploration into whether we wish to adopt this as a shared concern of the Meeting.

See the following articles and podcast for more information about Shelagh.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/life-style/health-and-families/health-news/dementia-sufferers-are-cut-adrift-after-diagnosis-warning-9577326.html>

<https://thefriend.org/article/dementia-my-worst-nightmare>

<http://www.thingsunseen.co.uk/podcasts/dementia-and-faith-shelagh-robinson/>

NOTES FROM MAY LOCAL MEETING

Nominations: Nominations Committee are still seeking a Trustee. Questions about the possibility of changing location and timing of meetings, and of having eg video conferencing will be fed back to the Clerk of Trustees.

Local Meeting Clerking: Following a consultation with Area Meeting Clerk, we considered a proposal to move to having a clerking team. The advantages of this system are that it would make good use of the skills and energies of the Meeting and develop clerking expertise. Concerns were expressed about continuity and leadership. We agreed to the formation of an exploratory Clerking Team to work with Nominations Committee to develop these ideas further. In order to give time for due consideration of this idea, Pat Dannahy will clerk June LM and Ann Caro will clerk July LM.

Food Bank: In view of the fact that most supermarkets now have food bank collection boxes, we agreed for Ann Caro to lay down the service of collection.

AM Newsletter: These will be distributed electronically three times a year. Friends who would like a printed copy (10-12 pages) should sign the list on the noticeboard.

Peace Messenger News: after meeting two representatives from Spirit of Peace, the Gloucestershire based charity which works to create a culture of nonviolence, the Peace Group is considering ways of working together with them. They heard a little about their programme "pathways to peace" a heart centred approach to peace-building. The Peace Group plans to co-ordinate a group of Friends to travel to Burghfield Atomic Weapons establishment near Reading on Monday 27 June to bear witness along with other faith groups. This is part of a month of actions taking place there during June organised by different groups. The day for faith groups is being organised by London Catholic Worker, with different faith groups, including Quakers, offering a slot (eg liturgy/prayer/meditation/workshop) at different times of the day. Alison will be running a briefing session prior to the event and asks for names of those interested.

Forest of Dean Quakers were successful last year in having a white poppy included in a wreath in Newnham. Peace Group hope to build on this by liaising with organisers of Remembrance Day services in Gloucestershire with a view to possibly laying wreaths of white poppies, or having them included in other wreaths.

Next Meeting is Thursday 30 June to which anyone is welcome. Details from Alison Crane.

NOTES FROM MAY AREA MEETING

News of Friends: A wedding has been arranged between Allegra Etheridge and Peter Stone at Nailsworth QMH on Friday 3 June. Details from Jane Mace.

Matters from Meeting for Sufferings: We are asked to consider the following at LM level and report to AM by the September AM: Vision for a criminal justice system from QPSW, and a Concern from Cornwall AM on the decriminalization of drugs.

Report from a conference on outreach: a lively and inspirational report was given by Judith Emmett on how we can inform ourselves and others on Quakerism.

Report from Quaker Life Representative Council weekend: The title of this was *Death, Dying and the End of Life*, something we all need to consider.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE QUAKER CAMP

This will take place in Dorset from 13-20 August and all Quakers and families are welcome. Bookings for this need to be in as soon as possible. Please contact Martin Quick of Stroud Meeting for more details, and to book.

KINDLER'S WORKSHOP

Saturday 18 June at Nailsworth Meeting House, there will be a great opportunity to take part in what we hope will be a fascinating and thought-provoking all-day workshop, 10.00am – 4.30pm, run by the Kindlers team, who will consider with us what we mean by "answering that of God in everyone". It will be a chance to consider, among other things, how awareness of divine essence in others and ourselves might transform our relationships, and how to overcome the blocks to love that we experience. It is open to all Friends and Attenders. The cost will be £10 for the day, and a simple lunch will be provided. Bursary help is available, please ask! Please could you book your place by contacting Judy Emmet.

Nailsworth Elders

CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH ACTIVITIES

Wednesday 25 May there will be an illustrated talk by Barbara Curry at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street, Winchcombe on Islamic art. What does the Qur'an say about art? Are faces allowed to be portrayed? Are there any images of the Prophet? Admission £5.

Thursday 2nd June: Cheltenham will join with the OXFORD INTERFAITH FRIENDSHIP WALK in the city at 6.15pm at Oxford Synagogue and Jewish Centre. From there we will proceed to St Giles' Church and through the city centre to the Central Oxford Mosque led by religious leaders, imams, rabbis, bishops and civic authorities. For more details on all interfaith activities tel: 01242 602412 or visit: www.CheltenhamInterFaith.org.uk

SOMETHING DIFFERENT

This is an invitation to join Friends in France for a musical adventure and/or an artist retreat event at the Maison Quaker in the Languedoc.

For details of the Maison Quaker visit their website <http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/>

A new music programme: *Make a Joyful Noise*, Thursday 6 October to Tuesday 11 October. Lift your spirits with a musical adventure, experience or talent not necessary--just a willingness to sing, play, learn or just listen. Cost: 445€ for shared occupancy (575€ private room) includes 5 nights' accommodation, meals, everything but concert admission and one lunch.

Autumn artist retreat: (in English) Saturday 24 September to Tuesday 4 October

We invite artists (professional or amateur) to join us for 6-10 days of creating and camaraderie in the south of France. All are welcome, Friends and friends.

Cost: 695€ private (560€ shared) includes accommodation, most meals and transportation. Additional days are 90€(65€ shared) per day.

To register, contact Judy at centre.quaker.congenies@gmail.com

RESTORATIVE JUSTICE: some Friends in our AM have trained as volunteer facilitators with Restorative Gloucestershire, a county-based charity which works with partner agencies to offer restorative interventions in a wide range of criminal and community cases. Last year the charity won an award for its work and has a high reputation nationally.

With the re-election of Martin Surl as Glos PCC, funding for Restorative Glos is now secured for a further 4 years and with a surge of referrals coming in, the charity is looking to train more volunteers. If you are interested in finding out more please email [Judy Roles](mailto:Judy.Roles) or go to: www.restorativegloucestershire.co.uk where you can leave your contact details.

SUGGESTIONS FOR THE USE OF LEGACIES

This is the list so far of suggestions for possible projects which Cheltenham Friends might like to consider at a Local Meeting later this year. Any additional suggestions that are appropriate to the memory of Sonya Allison and Dorothy [Betty] Willis can be sent to the Clerks..

chairs for the tea room that stack on wheels
Small under the counter fridge in the kitchen
2 comfortable chairs for the foyer
Proper parking spaces
a pull down screen in the Meeting Room for projecting images
Soap dispensers in the male and female toilets
clean the walls
landscape the garden, new paving, low maintenance shrubs
renew the Cheltenham Quaker website artistically
replace stones with forest bark
aluminium gutters, drain pipes
efficient ventilation system for the Meeting Room
a sound system for the Meeting Room
redecorate the Meeting House
Renew the suspended ceiling in foyer, Eliz Fry room and tea room including LED lights
Garden furniture
renew the carpet
add a roof window in the Meeting Room
setting aside money for charitable causes
Support a project that the whole Meeting is involved in, such as dementia care