

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## AUGUST 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>July</b>			
Sunday	24	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	24	noon	<b>Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing</b>
<b>August</b>			
Saturday	13	To 20th	<b>Quaker Camp</b> is being held in Dorset
Sunday	28	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	28	noon	<b>Fourth Sunday Worship Sharing</b>

Our Friend Mike Lang died peacefully in Cheltenham General Hospital on 3 July. There will be a Meeting for Worship to Celebrate Mike's life at 2.30pm on Friday 29 July in Cheltenham Quaker Meeting House. In lieu of flowers, donations may be given to Cheltenham Quaker Meeting for the Meeting House garden; this fund will be used to create a space of living beauty in which Mike and other Friends may rest

**AUGUST COLLECTION** is for Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK). This charity, run by Quakers in Yorkshire, raises funds in this country for its sister charitable organisation in Myanmar, Hope for Shining Stars. This provides educational opportunities for children from poor backgrounds, often from begging and scavenging families. Support is for everything from literacy classes, family support for a child who is going to school, to vocational training and courses in higher education. The website for more information and to donate is [www.s4sk.org.uk](http://www.s4sk.org.uk). Or send a cheque, payable to Scholarships for Street Kids to: The Treasurer (S4SK) 72-74 Sun St., Haworth, W.Yorks., BD22 8AH.

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.

### CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

There will be a visit to the Faith Garden, Cheney Manor, Swindon Sunday 14 August 3.00pm at the invitation of Swindon Inter Faith Group. There will be a tour of Garden, talk and refreshments. Numbers going needed as soon as possible.

More information from the chairman at [peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com](mailto:peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com) or tel: 01242 602412.

### STUDY GROUP: QUAKER FAITH & PRACTICE

It was suggested that we might consider starting up a group to study Quaker Faith and Practice. Anyone interested please put your name on the sign-up sheet on the noticeboard.

**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 August** at the latest

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

## NOTES FROM JULY LOCAL MEETING

**Nominations:** The Meeting went through the document *Cheltenham LM Quaker Nominations and Appointments* prepared by Nominations Committee. The Triennium commenced January 2016. The lack of a Cheltenham Trustee is very troubling, as this is a legal requirement. Area Meeting is aware of Cheltenham's problems re accessibility of meetings (evening, distance etc.). Another Elder, and two people for Nominations, another member for the Children's and Young People's team, another Funeral Friend, a Supporting Friend, and another member for Premises are the most urgent posts which need to be filled. There was discussion about particular roles and a number of helpful alterations were made.

Cal Anton-Smith was appointed to the Children's Committee.

**Peace Messenger News:** This was sent out with Minutes as an appendix.

**Burghfield nuclear weapons factory** in Berkshire: throughout the month of June demonstrations and nonviolent blockades have taken place at this factory where the UK weapons of mass destruction are assembled. On Monday 27th June, people from different Christian denominations gathered for the 'No Faith in Trident' day, joined by four Cheltenham Quakers and two from other Gloucestershire Meetings. The police were friendly and respectful, and there was opportunity to make friendly conversation. We do not know how far the ripples from our actions might spread.

Quakers also took part in other days of action throughout the month, including three from Yorkshire on 21 June, who posted a statement on the gate, including the words, "Quakers say 'We believe that no one has the right to use these weapons in their defence or to ask another person to use them on their behalf. To rely on the possession of nuclear weapons as a deterrent is faithless; to use them is a sin.'" (QFP 24.41)

**The Area Meeting Peace Group** met on 30 June, and made further plans for laying wreaths of white poppies at Remembrance Day services this November. Rowland Carson has written to the Cheltenham branch of the British Legion to ask permission.

The Peace group also included a discussion on the implications of "Brexit", especially the apparent rise in racist incidents. We were pleased with the statement issued by Friends House, and it will be suggested at AM that we send a modified version to local media.

**Meetings for Learning** Dorothy Carson has organised MfL in Cheltenham for the Autumn, both after Meeting for Worship:

1. David Gee will facilitate a Peace and Remembrance workshop on Sunday 25 September followed by a bring-and-share lunch so that we can have more informal discussions.
2. Gus Hales, Veterans for Peace Regional Coordinator for the West Midlands will talk to us about their work on Sunday 30 October. Again, this will be followed by a shared lunch.

AM Peace group next meeting will be on 9 September in Gloucester. All are welcome.

## NOTES FROM JULY AREA MEETING

**Area Meeting calendar:** We learn that all meetings are content to accept the draft 8-meeting calendar, to be reviewed within a year. We note

- the request for two, rather than just one Saturday meeting
- the need for a Gloucester AM not to be held on that day
- the proposal from Wotton to have Sunday meetings starting at 2pm.

We agree to go ahead on this basis, asking the clerks to bring an amended version to our next meeting with this in mind.

**Letter to local press:** It was agreed that our Clerk should draft a letter to be sent to local papers. This has now been printed in *Gloucestershire Echo*:

### *Building bridges after the referendum*

"It has become urgent, it seems to us, that we put an end to prejudging who is or is not an ally, and instead reach out to each other in the common search for tolerance and shared humanity. Both the campaign that led up to the EU referendum and its outcome put too much stress on divisions between communities. The need now is for bridge-building. We know that turbulent times can be frightening, but we also know that with change can come opportunity: the chance to find creative ways forward, to heal divisions and to listen to alternatives – looking to one another for support, love and wisdom."