

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

DECEMBER 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.)

November			
Saturday	26	From 1.00pm	Workshop <i>Exploring our Gifts</i> see page 3 for details
Sunday	27	noon	Worship Sharing
Sunday	27	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
December			
Thursday	1	7.45pm	Meeting of Pastoral Friends at Evelyn Shaw's home
Sunday	4	11.50am	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	8	2.00pm	Discussion Group on QF&P
Saturday	11	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Cheltenham FMH
Sunday	18	10.30am	Semi programmed Meeting see below

Please note there will be no Meeting for Learning or Worship Sharing in December

Apologies for the lateness of this newsletter, due to my cataract operation. And thanks to my newly appointed assistant editor (temporary), Jacek, for his help.

DECEMBER COLLECTION is for Acorns Children's Hospice Trust. This charity provides invaluable respite care and end of life care for life limited children. In addition they give on-going family support for parents, siblings and grandparents. They offer specialised care and support in the heart of England, including Gloucestershire, with hospices at Selly Oak, Walsall and Worcester, and a community team who offer support at home. Their nearest shop is at 220 High Street, Cheltenham, and would welcome custom and volunteers. Donations can be made online or sent to: Acorns Children Hospice, Drakes Court, Alcester Road, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6JR. Tel: 10564 82 5000. Website: www.acorns.org.uk
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.

CHRISTMAS

As Christmas approaches, Pastoral Friends have suggested that our Christmas worship takes place on Sunday 18 December, as part of our Meeting for Worship. This is instead of the Saturday "Carols by Candlelight" that has been held in recent years.

It is suggested that on that Sunday, Friends bring a short reading, or seasonal thought for sharing in the usual manner of Friends. Our Friend Judy Roles hopes to provide accompaniment with some music, on the 18th and at other times in December- please see the notice board for details.

Jo Joy

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 19 December at the latest
Web address: <http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/newsletters.php>

REMEMBRANCE SUNDAY 13 NOVEMBER 2016

This morning, Remembrance Sunday, Alison Crane, Dorothy Carson & Rowland Carson of Cheltenham Quaker Meeting took part in the wreath-laying ceremony at Cheltenham war memorial. We laid a specially-commissioned wreath of mostly fresh white flowers with a few RBL red poppies included. The attached card read "In memory of all victims of conflict". We each wore one white and one red poppy with a "Quakers for peace" badge.

We had negotiated our participation with the local Royal British Legion (who control all aspects of Remembrance) and they informed us that "the laying of a white poppy wreath would not be acceptable" - "as it would undoubtedly cause offence to a number of people and be an unwelcome distraction during the Service of Remembrance".

For this year at least, we have accepted their compromise suggestion of a wreath containing white flowers other than poppies. We met with nothing but pleasant acceptance by all we encountered at the ceremony, including military personnel. Returning to the war memorial after the ceremony to take pictures, we overheard one of the people nearby saying "That's a nice sentiment" while indicating our wreath.

We hope in future to engage in further discussion with RBL, exploring why they believe a symbol which represents remembrance of civilian deaths and suffering, as well as military, to be such an offensive idea. We also hope to mention the use of white poppies by Quakers elsewhere, done in agreement with their local RBL branches.

Pictures are available at:

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/tqwk3r2ch1b6sym/AABBiZaeAxKiPE7-Bz5vuEuMa?dl=0>

Rowland, Dorothy and Alison



NOTES ON NOVEMBER LOCAL MEETING

Nominations: Pat Dannahy asked to be released from her Clerking role as of the end of this year. Joy Heaven asked to be released from her role as Elder, as of now. June Drummond asked to be released from her role as Assistant Treasurer at the end of the year. Meeting agreed to these requests and thanked Pat, Joy and June all for their service to the Meeting.

Area Meeting in December is here at Cheltenham MH at 1.30pm on Sunday 11 December. Arrangements have been made for tea, doorkeeping etc. More help welcome on the day.

Donations and Collections: June Drummond circulated a breakdown of charitable contributions over the last 12 months. See page 4 for details.

Premises: We agreed to ask Nominations to bring forward the names of at least two people to join Premises Committee to form a Project team for the building work. Alison will prepare a description of the role involved in project management.

Alison Crane reported that we have been able to appoint Deborah Betteridge to the role of caretaker as of next Sunday. We thanked Alison and Dorothy Carson for their work on our behalf.

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER AREA MEETING

Nominations: Lys Hocking (Cirencester) and Joy Heaven (Cheltenham) were released from service as Elders. Jill Nasas as Elder and Gillian Bilborough as Overseer, both of Cirencester, were appointed until the end of the triennium.

Membership: we were pleased to welcome Michele Nichols of Gloucester into membership

Restorative justice matter:

Following minute 16/56 (July AM) we learned that Judy Roles, Wendy Gerard and Sue Barrance have given thought to a proposal for next steps to support this young man Jay.

However, we heard with sadness from Maggi Holiday that, following further offences, Jay has since been taken into custody and now awaits trial on 16 Dec 2016. She shared with us her understanding of the situation that had led to this outcome.

We commended Gloucester Meeting for their decision to have gone through the restorative justice process and to give continued commitment to support Jay and his family. We asked Judy Roles to continue in her efforts to contact Chaplaincy support at the prison where he is located and Area Meeting Friends to uphold in prayerful unconditional love Jay, his family and the victims of his acts.

Testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Sally Mason:

Following minute 16/14 (March AM) we heard a draft of this testimony prepared with due process and presented by Forest of Dean Friends. We thanked the group for their work in compiling this and united in accepting it as a truthful account. We asked the clerk to forward it from this AM to BYM staff for publication.

Contact our Clerking Team if you would like to see the full minutes or the Testimony.

WORKSHOP ON SATURDAY 26 NOVEMBER 2016 Exploring and Using our Gifts

This workshop is to be facilitated for us by Sue Tuckwell from Quaker Life Network. Sue is part of an on-going process in Redland Meeting, Bristol, where Friends have been trying to develop different ways of working and being together as a Meeting. She is keen to help us explore creative approaches to using and developing the different gifts of individuals. This exploratory workshop is the beginning of a process of change for our Meeting - a chance to "think outside the box".

Everyone is welcome and there is no charge for attendance but please add your name to the sign-up sheet on the noticeboard so we know how many Friends are hoping to come.

The format for the day will be as follows:

- 1.00 pm Lunch (bring a packed lunch if you wish, drinks provided)
- 1.30 - 3.15pm Welcome and first session
- 3.15 - 3.30pm Tea break
- 3.30 - 4.30pm Second session
- 4.30 - 5.00pm Feedback

If you have any questions, please ask one of us.

Dinah Clements and Jo Teakle

NOTE FROM PASTORAL FRIENDS

As Pastoral Friends we meet every six weeks or so, to try and discern how, with our limited resources, we can best serve the Meeting. It is our custom, among other things, to name Friends during this time remembering them and holding them in the Light.

At a recent Meeting, we discussed the inspiring talk given by Shelagh at the Meeting for Learning in June, on how to support members with dementia and their families. We are keen to ensure that we can encourage the Meeting to pursue as many of the recommendations as possible, and would like Friends to be aware of progress so far:

- Thanks to Ni and Alison measures have been taken to place visitor books in the rooms of those in care, to provide a means of communication and support for other visitors and family members. This could, if the Meeting feels appropriate, be taken up, not just for those with dementia, but others with generally failing health.
- It is hoped that a copy of the video created by the Alzheimer's Society may be obtained and might be shown in a future Meeting for Learning when possible.
- A folder with information on Alzheimers is to be created and placed in the Meeting House.
- Judy Roles is keen to support the introduction of music in the Meeting House- whether this takes the form of acquiring a piano for use in accompanying sing-alongs/recitals, or arranging occasional concert visits, or any other musical venture which the Meeting may have ideas on, remains for the Meeting to decide.
- There are potential opportunities to liaise with other local initiatives on care for those with memory problems, which are being explored.

If anyone wishes to be more closely involved in any of the above initiatives, or have any further suggestions, please speak to one of the Pastoral Team, who are:

Margaret Cooper, Judy Roles, Evelyn Shaw, Nigel Smith, Maureen Steffen, Jo Joy.

Finally, it is hoped that everyone knows who their Pastoral Friend is; if there is anyone who is not sure, please ask. Whilst we as a team try to be aware of issues and concerns of Friends and offer support where we can, we can only know if you tell us, so please help us by communicating, if not about your own need, by looking out for others and letting us know if you are concerned.

Thank you.

Jo Joy

CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

Information from the chairman at peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com or tel: 01242 602412.

FINANCES

Donations from Meeting Funds

There have been no Meeting House appeals so far this year. We have £1000 available for donations to charities associated with Quakers.

2014

Brummana High School, Lebanon – helping Syrian displaced pupils	£300
Friends Housing Bursary Trust – we are sympathetic to the elderly	£300
Circles UK – support for those convicted of sexual abuse or violence	£200
Leap – training for damaged young people in conflict management	£200
Help to transport the Quaker Tapestry to BYMG	<u>£100</u>
Total	£1100

2015

Swarthmore Lecture Special Appeal	£100
Quaker Homeless Action	£200
Quaker Social Action	£200
Quaker Council for European Affairs	£200
Ramallah Friends School	£200
The Retreat Benevolent Fund	£200
Quaker Service in Ireland	<u>£200</u>
Total	£1300

2016

Cook stoves for Kenya - a project of Global Footsteps	£300
Friends House Moscow	£300
Brummana High School, Lebanon – helping Syrian displaced pupils	£300
Quaker Action on Domestic Violence (started in 2015)	<u>£300</u>
Total	£1200

Collections

2016 Charity Collections	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sept	Oct	Totals
G.A.R.A.S	206.00										
Circles of Support UK		85.39									
Quaker Housing Trust			97.64								
Dabane Support Trust (Zimbabwe)				57.34							
Friends World Committee for Consultation					89.96						
Carers Gloucestershire						117.77					
The Leaveners							96.43				
Scholarships for Street Kids (Myanmar)								128.79			
Womenkind Worldwide									64.38		
Cheltenham Open Door										115.15	1058.85
Friends Therapeutic Trust (Glebe House)											
Acorns Hospices and support for families (Dec)											
Meeting funds	17.00	43.05	90.28	23.90	65.76	39.21	44.00	48.00	37.00	6.00	414.20
Total for month	223.00	128.44	187.92	81.24	155.72	156.98	140.43	176.79	101.38	121.15	1473.05
Totals in 2015 (Different Charities)	240.00	171.49	278.20	105.14	221.48	196.19	184.43	224.79	202.76	242.30	2066.78

June Drummond adds:

Without any changes, next year's Collection list will be:

JAN	Sight 20:20	JULY	Dabane Trust
FEB	Listening Post	AUG	FWCC
MAR	Quaker Tapestry	SEPT	Carers Glos
APR	Friends of Hlekweni	OCT	Hamper Scamper CCP
MAY	Circles of Support	NOV	The Leaveners
JUN	Quaker Housing Trust	DEC	Scholarships for Street Kids

The next major revision of the list will be due at the end of next year (2017). Are Friends content to keep to this schedule?

Continued over -

I have been assistant treasurer for over six years now and I hope Friends will release me from this service.

The work has changed over the period and you may be interested to know what it now entails:

- Having authorisation as a signatory to all Meeting accounts and having access to the Internet accounts;
- Running and reporting the collections, and any special payments, e.g. Spiritual Adventure Days, memorial donations;
- This is with the help of Lydia Sutcliffe and Julie Stubbs (who do the collection and paying in each week most efficiently, for which I am most grateful);
- Checking the Lloyds Bank account and writing the cheques for the Collections each month;
- If necessary acting for the Treasurer in an emergency (fortunately this has not happened!).

June M Drummond

SPIKE THE POET

The talk after our Fifth Sunday Meeting for Worship in October was given by Spike, a member of the Veterans for Peace. He told us of his military experience, some of it in Northern Ireland, and the devastating effect it had on his life, especially after he had left. It was only in his forties that he managed to come to terms with his experiences and found he had a gift for poetry. He read out some of his poems, some of which you can find on his Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/SpikethePoet/>

but his website address on that page takes you to an Adidas advert!

PS Veterans For Peace took part in the Remembrance Sunday parade at the Cenotaph and were able to lay a wreath of white poppies. see <https://www.facebook.com/ReelNews/videos/10154735723449605/>

Qf&p 10.01

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

Isaac Penington 1667