

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JANUARY 2017

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.)

January			
Thursday	12	2.00pm	Discussion Group on QF&P (chapter 20)
Sunday	15	noon	Meeting for Learning <i>Prison: a rehabilitation culture?</i> Led by Judy Roles
Sunday	22	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	22	noon	Worship Sharing
Sunday	29	10.30am	Semi-programmed Meeting for Worship see below

Please note that there is no Area Meeting for Worship for Business in January

Fifth Sunday semi-programmed Meeting for Worship on 29 January has the theme '*Living Faithfully Today*' (the current focus of the QFP study group). Friends are invited to bring prepared readings or to minister as moved on this theme, with time for silent reflection between contributions.

This will be followed by a shared lunch.

JANUARY COLLECTION is for Sight 2020 Direct. Margaret Sheldrick's son has sent the following update:

Thank you for all your support so far, Cheltenham Friends.

This year we consolidated our links with Nguludi Special needs school and had another very successful blind football camp. We intend to return later in 2017 and organise another summer football extravaganza. It's so wonderful to see the joy on the faces of the children as they chase the ball by ear forgetting their disability, especially so the girls who are often forgotten in their shyness.

In July the children identified a lack of security as their main concern. The hostel where they live has no wall and the albino children are at risk of abduction from kidnappers who pass them on for ritualistic barbaric acts. The Malawi government thankfully are taking this scourge seriously.

The work at Zomba central hospital continues as we try and support the work there. This consists of training mentoring and glaucoma and cataract surgery. This year 5 Occupational Therapy students from Cardiff University joined us for a month of activities at the hospital and school.

Next year we plan to organise a conference for all the Ophthalmic Clinical officers (OCO's) the main work force for eye work in Malawi. We hope this will help them in their continual profession development (CPD) and give them a greater voice in the running of their respective eye units in the country. The children love music and they would love to play an instrument and so we are collecting harmonicas (mouth organs) for the children. Any offers gratefully accepted.

Your money will help go towards these causes. If you'd like to take on one cause to support that will be fine too. Once again thank you for supporting our work in Malawi we gratefully value your prayers as well as practical support.

Andrew and Sally Feyi-Waboso

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 16 January at the latest

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

NOTES FROM DECEMBER LOCAL MEETING

Nominations: Sal Drummond has been released from her role on the Clerking Team. Nigel Smith and Ann Caro will be continuing as members of the Clerking Team at least until March, Pat Dannahy will continue to be responsible for DBS checks. We intend to bring the composition and structure of the Clerking role to our next LM.

Exploring our Gifts: We looked at how might we best use our energies in the service of our Meeting and to express our Quaker witness. We found many gifts that we would be willing to share, and decided on what we would miss in the Meeting if it were stopped. We hope Nominations will be able to tie these in together when considering posts which are vacant and need filling.

Meeting House improvements: Cal Anton-Smith will be serving on the team taking this forward.

Peace News: The annual Interfaith event at the University this year, as part of National Interfaith week, was on 17 November, themed "People of Sanctuary – an exploration of faith and the refugee crisis". It included one of the Syrian women now living in Cheltenham sharing part of the story of her family's experiences, in a moving talk. On 23 November a meeting was held between churches and the Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees group to think about how churches could be actively involved in supporting refugee families who have already arrived and those who are expected.

NOTES FROM DECEMBER AREA MEETING

Membership: We were glad to welcome into membership Jo Teakle and Caroline Anton-Smith of Cheltenham Meeting. It was good that Mike, Jo's husband, and John, Cal's father, were able to come to the Meeting to support them. More on this on page 3.

Transfers: We agreed to the transfer out of Gloucestershire AM of Tony and Christine Clapp (Forest) to Nottingham AM; and welcomed the transfer in of Peter Davenport from South Wales AM.(Stroud).

Nominations: Sal Drummond is released from her role as Membership Clerk as of March 2017; Sue le Fleming is released from her role as Custodian of records. Terry Robinson (Painswick) was appointed Trustee and John Geale was appointed Assistant Treasurer. We agreed to appoint a small team to undertake backlog of archiving in our Local Meetings, and appointed Nick Peters, and two more members to be found, to do this.

Book of Discipline Revision: the group looking at *Quaker faith and practice* are keen to find out how people use it and are particularly interested whether and how Friends appointed to various roles in the Meeting use the Church Government sections to help them. They would appreciate our thoughts by 12 January via an online questionnaire www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ChurchGov

FWCC: We are asked to help support FWCC with prayerful upholding and financial help as it continues to connect Friends in our work, our worship and our lives. Visit for more: www.quaker.org.uk/qwrc

YEARLY MEETING Gathering 2017

This will be held at the University of Warwick, 29 July - 5 August with the theme *Living out our faith in the world*. Bookings can be made online from 4 January at www.quaker.org.uk/ym or phone 020 7663 1040 and ask for a booking form to be posted to you.

The Swarthmore Lecture will be given by Catherine West MP.

CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

Information from the chairman at peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com

DEMENTIA DAY CENTRE

There is a new Dementia Day Care Centre called the Secret Garden Community Hub set in the grounds of Faithfull House in Suffolk Square. It offers care for dementia sufferers and their families. More information on www.lilianfaithfull.co.uk

More from Area Meeting:

Jo Teakle and Cal (Caroline) Anton-Smith became members of the Society of Friends on Sunday 11 December at Gloucestershire Area Meeting held in Cheltenham. Both Jo and Cal read out statements, as Aspiring Friends, which they would like to share with us. This is Cal's and we hope to print Jo's in next month's newsletter.

My name is Caroline Anton-Smith. I have been part of the Quaker family since I was 7 years old when I began attending Cheltenham Meeting with my mother Ann Anton-Smith, who in turn had attended Gloucester Meeting with her sister Margaret Sheldrick (nee Taylor) and their father Noel Taylor (Member 1929- 1971)

In my late teens and early twenties, encouraged by Cheltenham Friends, I participated in several Gloucestershire Area Meeting summer camps, Young Friend weekends and week-long sessions at QCEA and QUNO (Geneva).

I have attended a Quaker meeting in all the places I have lived, including ten years in Canterbury and 11 years in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA.

I have come full circle.

I am once more attending Cheltenham Meeting amongst some Friends who remember me from my childhood, others who remember my mother and those who are attending for the first time.

My desire to seek membership has come from a joyous understanding of "being at home and in the right place" (Qf&p 11.01).

Furthermore, I have come to realize that "my religious disposition was being unconsciously formed" (Rufus Jones 1926) during all these years amongst Friends.

I am in the right place. I am home.