

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

MARCH 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.)

February			
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	noon	Worship Sharing
March			
Sunday	5	11.50am	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	9	2.00pm	Discussion Group on QF&P
Saturday	11	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Cheltenham QMH
Sunday	19	noon	Meeting for Learning see below
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	noon	Worship Sharing

Meeting for Learning in March: Alison Crane will lead us on the Footpaths community carbon reduction programme.

MARCH COLLECTION is for the Quaker Tapestry. This inspired project detailing something of the Quaker story and beliefs was started in 1981 and declared finished after 77 tapestries were made. However, its popularity means that Quaker Meetings all round the world, as well as the UK, have gone on to make their own. The original tapestries are housed in an exhibition centre in Kendal, open to the public, and also lent to Meetings and others. This is an excellent form of outreach, interesting embroiderers, historians, schools as well as Quakers and those of other religious traditions. Half their funding comes from admission fees, the gift shop and the café, but they rely on donations to keep the project going. Donations can be made via the website www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk or by post to Quaker Tapestry Ltd, Friends Meeting House, Stramongate, Kendal, Cumbria, LA9 4BH

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.

Qf&P 20.34 If John Woolman's approach is the right one for the society of today it is not enough to go over our own behaviour in detail, cutting a bit here and pulling back a bit there; we must be concerned with our and society's attitude to life as a whole, to live "answerable to the design of our creation".

Michael Lee 1976

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 March** at the latest

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

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY LOCAL MEETING

Appointments: Rowland Carson is to join the Meeting House Alterations Project Team.

Sal Drummond and Ann Caro are laying down their roles as part of the Clerking Team.

Spiritual Adventure Days for 2017: Elders do not feel they have the resources to organise these for this year. However, they hope to be able to facilitate a visit to YM Gathering to include the Swarthmoor Lecture.

Premises and Legacy matters: Alison Crane told us that various routine items of maintenance work have been carried out. The next item is checking of fire safety, alarms etc. The subsidence on the car parking space proved not to be insurable, but improvement of those spaces is part of the legacy work. The building is not affected by the damage. Our new caretaker is settling well, and doing more hours than the preceding caretaker because of the heavy use of the building. As a result maintenance costs are higher because we are needing to pay people to carry out work which at one time we were able to do ourselves. Friends are asked to remember this when making donations.

Treasurer's Report: Our Friend Ian Brighton took us through the SOFA 2016 document, noting that Friends' contributions were less this year. This could be due to a number of factors, which need to be explored, and the Treasurer will report back to us. Expenditure was high, because of the cost of running the building has increased. Support costs for courses and conferences have increased, mainly for new post holders. More of our resources have been used this year than previously, but there is more money to come in relating to 2016. We noted that we have generated over £1,000 gross from our sale of electricity from our solar panels.

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY AREA MEETING

Membership: We recorded the death of Margaret Davis on 10 December. Margaret belonged to Forest Meeting.

Meeting for Marriage: We were glad to appoint a Meeting for Marriage between Jane Salome Mace and John Colson Geale, both of Nailsworth Meeting, on Saturday **22 April at 12.30pm** at Cirencester Meeting House.

Young People's Day: Dylan Barker gave us a report on his experience of this. He told us the main focus of the day was reflection on the Living our Beliefs publication, which he found a source of insight and inspiration.

QUAKERISM IN A TIME OF GREAT POLITICAL CHANGE:

The last year has seen a darkening in global and national politics. Openness, tolerance, peace and equality are under threat to an extent unimaginable only a few years ago. The prospects for effective action on climate change have receded.

How should Quakers respond, individually and collectively? What spiritual resources do we need to meet these challenges?

Gloucester Area Meeting is organising a half-day event on the theme "Quakers at a Time of Great Political Change" at Gloucester Friends Meeting House on **Saturday 27 May 2017, starting at 10.00 am for 10.30 am.**

Our Friend Molly Scott-Cato, Green MEP for the south west of England, has agreed to speak. The event is open to everyone in the Area Meeting. Please make a note in your diaries now!

We need help from as many Friends as possible to prepare for the event, both practical organisation and to discern the main issues we will need to address. If you feel that you would like to contribute to this work, please come to a meeting of a preparatory group at Gloucester FMH on **Saturday 4 March 2017, at 10.30 am.**

Helen Pemberton, Cheltenham
Peter Carter, Stroud

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 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.

QUAKER CAMP this year will be from **5 to 13 August** at Ringstead Bay on the Dorset coast near Weymouth. All ages are welcome. For more details, contact Martin Quick, camp convenor

CHELTHENHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

Information from the chairman at peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com or go to the website www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk.