

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

APRIL 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.)

March			
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	noon	Worship Sharing
April			
Sunday	2	11.50am	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Sunday	9	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Chipping Club Room
Thursday	13	2.00pm	Discussion Group on QF&P see below
Sunday	23	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	23	noon	Worship Sharing
Sunday	30		Fifth Sunday semi programmed MfW followed by shared lunch

Area Meeting is hosted by Wotton Meeting and will be held at the Chipping Club Room.

Discussion Group Thursday 13 April please read Qf&P *Caring for one another* 12.01, 12.02, 12.03, 12.04.

Fifth Sunday semi-programmed Meeting for Worship 30 April has the theme *The Challenge of Change*. We may be conscious of changes that are happening in our own lives, in the life of our Meeting and in the world around us. How does the Spirit guide us as we learn to navigate our way through change?

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.

News of Friends:

At Local Meeting we recorded with sadness the deaths of our Friends Kathleen Robson and Brian Robson, Kathleen on 21 February at the age of 95 and Brian on 4 March at the age of 93. There will be a joint funeral at 12 noon at the crematorium on 21 March. We heard with pleasure the reports from small groups considering their memories of our Friends Kathleen & Brian.

Mike Lang: Two hardwood benches from sustainable sources have been ordered for our garden in commemoration of Mike Lang and should be in place by the end of March.

APRIL COLLECTION is for the charity Friends of Hlekweni.. This is a Quaker-founded Zimbabwean Welfare Organisation, which has been working with rural Zimbabwean communities to develop sustainable livelihoods and promote appropriate technology and conservation farming since 1967. Hlekweni's mission is to give practical expression to Quaker testimonies in the most impoverished communities of Zimbabwe. The work has a special focus on promoting education and peacebuilding, with support to schools, school feeding schemes, and bursaries for orphans, as well as peace education in schools. Donations can be sent to Friends of Hlekweni, The Quaker Centre, 1 Oakley Gardens, Downhead Park, Milton Keynes, MK15 9BH. <<http://friendsofhlekweni.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.

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 17 April at the latest

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

NOTES FROM MARCH LOCAL MEETING

Appointments: We agreed to the appointments of the following as Assistant Clerks for the remainder of 2017, one to serve for each Local Meeting: Alwyn Burton, Dorothy Carson, Rowland Carson, Dinah Clements, Alison Crane, Tim Howarth, Helen Pemberton.

Safeguarding: Procedures were agreed for the obtaining of DBS clearance for anyone named by Nominations Committee who would be taking on a role involving children or young people. Pat Dannahy hopes to attend any relevant training courses held locally and it was agreed to pay any costs involved.

Meeting records: We noted that June Drummond has agreed to explore the storage and archiving of Cheltenham LM Minutes and to provide a list of recommendations, in accordance with Area Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting guidelines, for a future LM.

NOTES FROM MARCH AREA MEETING

Membership: We have received and accepted with pleasure certificates of transfer to our Area Meeting for: Ruth Pedder, from Bristol and Redland AM to Painswick LM; Peter and Ann Furtado, from Oxford and Swindon AM to Stroud LM; and Virginia Pawlyn, from Banbury and Evesham AM.

We also agreed to a request from Robert Heaven to transfer his membership from our AM to Thaxted AM. We noted that Monica Jones, till now member of Stroud meeting wishes to revert to being an attender. In accordance with para 11.28 of Quaker Faith and Practice, we accepted this as a resignation and asked the membership clerk to amend the record accordingly.

Painswick Meeting reported that they have lost contact with Lesley Abraham, formerly Davis. Her address has been unknown for a period of over three years and cannot, after a careful search, be ascertained; nor have Painswick received any transfer request either from or about her.

We therefore agreed that, in accordance with para. 11.30 b. of Quaker Faith and Practice, her membership be terminated.

Appointments: For health reasons, Angela Garfield (Nailsworth meeting) asked to be released from her role as overseer. We accepted this request, with appreciation for our Friend's service. We appointed Paul Freke as Trustee of the Bowly Almshouses Charity until the end of this triennium, 31 Dec 2017. We have no nominations to bring to Junior Yearly Meeting this year.

A Quaker journey through the criminal justice system: Dorothy Carson gave us a presentation on her two-year experience of study within the Woodbrooke *Equipping for Ministry* framework. We appreciated her account of how this had enlarged her understanding and witness of living as a Quaker in the world today.

HARNESSING HOPE IN DIFFICULT TIMES

This is the new title for an Area Meeting event being planned for the morning of Saturday 27 May at Gloucester Meeting House when Molly Scott-Cato, Green MEP for SW England has agreed to speak. At a time when equality, justice and peace are under attack both here and abroad, how can we sustain hope? In this meeting we shall try to discern a Spirit-led response to these challenges so that we can act constructively. More details will follow later but PLEASE NOTE THE DATE NOW.

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 Friends House and ask for a booking form to be posted to you. All bookings need to be made and paid for before 30 April whether you are going to YMG for the week or visiting for the day. Early booking for day visitors is recommended as places are limited. (The cost is £25 per day with reductions for 3 or more days.) The Swarthmore Lecture will be given by Catherine West MP at 7.15pm on Monday 31st July. Please see our noticeboard for a sign-up list for car-sharing if you need or could offer a lift. More details about Yearly Meeting Gathering are available at <www.quaker.org.uk/ym>.

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.

CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

Information from the chairman at peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com or go to the website <<http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.ok>>.