

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

MAY 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.)

<b>April</b>			
Sunday	23	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	23	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>
<b>May</b>			
Friday	5	1.45pm	<b>Meeting of Elders</b>
Sunday	7	11.50am	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Thursday	11	2.00pm	<b>Discussion Group on QF&amp;P</b> see below
Sunday	21	noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below
Saturday	27	10.00am	<b>Half Day AM Event</b> see below
Sunday	28	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	28	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>

**There is no Area Meeting for Business this month. The next one will be on Sunday 11 June.**

**Discussion Group** Thursday 11 May facilitated by Alison Crane. In preparation, it will be helpful if you could look at chapter 23 (social responsibility) and choose an extract that speaks to your condition or resonates with you in some way.

**Meeting for Learning** Sunday 21 May on 'Dementia and Creativity' led by Nigel Smith

**Half Day AM event** Saturday 27 May 10.00am 'Harnessing our Hope in Difficult Times' at Gloucester Meeting House. Molly Scott Cato, Quaker and MEP 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.

**STOP PRESS: this meeting has been cancelled because of Molly's commitments in the General Election.**

**MAY COLLECTION** is for the charity Circles UK. This charity tries to build safer communities through volunteers working with sex offenders to minimise alienation, support integration and so prevent sexual reoffending. Each Circle consists of four to six Volunteers and a Core Member (the sex offender). The Core Member is required to take responsibility for their on going risk management. The Circle can also provide support and practical guidance in such things as developing social skills and finding suitable accommodation. Circles depends on donations to help fund its work and welcomes volunteers. Make cheques payable to Circles UK and send to Abbey House, Abbey Square, Reading, RG1 3BE or visit the website <http://circles-uk.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.

## 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](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym) or phone 020 7663 1040 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. (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](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

**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 May** at the latest

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

## NOTES FROM APRIL LOCAL MEETING

**Brian and Kathleen Robson:** Helen Pemberton read a summary of our memories of Brian and Kathleen which we agreed to submit as an item to be read at AM next week.

**Peace Messenger Report:** We have been invited to join other Cheltenham Churches in supporting a local conference on 23 September in Christ Church, Malvern Road, to mark the centenary of the Balfour Declaration and raise awareness of the Palestinian plight. We agree to donate £100 towards the cost of holding the conference. Alison agrees to liaise with the organisers and bring more information as it emerges.

**Health of the Meeting:** We have today made a preliminary exploration of the changing pattern of Cheltenham Meeting including financial balance, multiple roles, unfilled positions, falling numbers and the advancing age of members and attenders. We ask the Clerk to investigate how this subject might be taken forward at a future Meeting for Learning or at a possible Spiritual Away Day in Autumn. Pastoral Friends have suggested that we consider reintroducing activities such as coffee mornings to encourage socialising, and postcards for new visitors.

## NOTES FROM APRIL AREA MEETING

**Membership:** We agreed to the laying down of membership by Jonathan Bell (Gloucester) and the transfer out of David and Judith Palmer to North of Scotland AM.

**Appointments:** We agreed to the release of Chris Chamberlain as trustee. We agreed to the appointment of Kathleen Cann, Jeffery Nicholls and June Drummond to join Nick Peters in serving on the custodian of records team. AM clerks Jane Mace and Pat Beard will not be seeking reappointment after the end of the triennium this December. Both stressed the enjoyment they continue to have in the service and the need they feel for spreading the experience as widely as possible.

**News of Friends:** We were glad to agree to the request for a Meeting for Worship for Marriage between Alan Gorton and Margaret Ann Caine, attenders at Cirencester, to be held on Sunday 11 June at 2.00pm at Cirencester Meeting House.

We welcomed the proposal of Cheltenham Friends to seek to prepare a Testimony to the Grace of God in the lives of Kathleen and Brian Robson. Nigel Smith, Colin Gerard and Andrew Turrall will take this forward.

**Peace workshop proposal:** We note that Friends in Forest and Cheltenham have now built up experience on negotiating respectfully with their local Royal British Legions (RBLs) regarding the laying of a white poppy or white flower wreath on Remembrance Sunday in November. We welcomed the proposal from the AM peace group for a mini workshop (to last approx 20 minutes) during the June Area Meeting on the subject of white poppies to inspire Friends in other Meetings to take up the issue in their local communities, giving time before the end of the summer to make contact and hold discussion with their local RBL representatives. The next meeting of the Peace Group will be on 25 May in Gloucester Friends Meeting House, and all are welcome.

**Trustee Annual Report:** We note that the 'recommended contribution' (RC) is a system that gives our treasurer and local meetings guidance on the amount that each LM needs to contribute to Area Meeting for it to meet its financial commitments and that our Trustees ask that the RC for 2017 be £130 for each AM member. The full version of the report is on the website, or available from our Clerking team.

## CAFÉS

**Cheltenham's Repair Café** should be better known! It pops up on the first Saturday of every month at St Andrew's Church Centre, Montpellier Street, Cheltenham GL50 1SP from 10.00 till 2.00.

Bring your broken electrical items, textiles and bikes for repair, and knives and tools for sharpening. (Book bikes in advance - [office@vision21.org.uk](mailto:office@vision21.org.uk) / 01242 224321.)

**Community Café:** Help is needed with the children's work during the Community Café on the first Thursday of every month from 6:30 – 9.00pm. This café seeks to bring together local people and the Syrian refugees being resettled in the area and is run by the Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees Group (CWR). If you can help, please contact Natalie [nathalie.genes@btinternet.com](mailto:nathalie.genes@btinternet.com)

**Death Cafes:** These are popping up in Cheltenham and Bishops Cleeve. The latter has one on Wednesday 17 May, hosted by No 9 Café from 6.00 to 8.00pm. More information on [deathcafe.com](http://deathcafe.com).

## CHELTENHAM INTERFAITH GROUP

Information from the chairman at [peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com](mailto:peter.slocombe@priest.cliftondiocese.com) or tel: 01242 602412 or go to the website [www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk](http://www.cheltenhaminterfaith.org.uk).