

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

AUGUST 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.)

July			
Saturday	29	to 5 August	Yearly Meeting at University of Warwick see below
Sunday	30	10.30am	Semi-programmed Meeting for Worship see below
August			
Thursday	10	2.00 – 4.00pm	Discussion Group on QF&P see below
Sunday	27	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	27	noon	Worship Sharing

Fifth Sunday 30 July semi-programmed Meeting for Worship will be on the theme of Trust. Friends are invited to bring prepared readings or to minister as moved on this theme, with time for silent worship between contributions. This will be followed by a shared lunch.

QF&P Study Group Thursday 10 August will be a social occasion with tea and cakes at Alwyn Burton's house, everyone in Meeting welcome. There is level access.

Death: Our Friend John Cross of Cheltenham Meeting died on 10 July 2017. His family have decided on a private cremation. We will be hosting a memorial Meeting for Worship at Cheltenham QMH on Monday 7 August at 2.30pm, followed by refreshments. It is hoped all who knew John will attend this celebration of his life.

AUGUST COLLECTION is for Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC). This was formed in 1937 to encourage spirit-led fellowship between Friends from all parts of the world. It aims to bring Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, to express our common heritage and to give our Quaker message to the world. Consultative status with the United Nations and association with our two Quaker United Nations offices offer a means to monitor and present Quaker contributions to world affairs. FWCC unites with other churches in the World Council of Churches in working together for justice and peace. Through the four autonomous, cooperating section offices, FWCC runs programmes in different regions. Quaker groups all over the world can be discovered by contacting the World Office, based in London. Donations can be given through the website www.fwccworld.org or sent to FWCC World Office, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2AX. tel: 0207 663 1199.

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*. For a place this year please contact University of Warwick directly – quakers2-17@warwick.ac.uk and/or visit www.quaker.org.uk/ym for full timetable

The Swarthmore Lecture will be given by Catherine West MP at 7.15pm on Monday 31st July. **Please contact Alison Crane or Judy Roles for lifts on Monday 31 July and Alison Crane for lifts on 3 August.** More details about Yearly Meeting Gathering are available at www.quaker.org.uk/ym or ring 020 7663 1040

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 21 August at the latest

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

NOTES ON JULY LOCAL MEETING

Health of the Meeting: Actions under way that may raise the profile of Quakers locally include an updated website and a welcome leaflet for newcomers.

We are part of a wider community and we would feel part of this community if more of us attended AM and Yearly Meeting. As well as being inward looking we need to be outward looking.

We could consider more publicity for the Meeting with letters and articles to the local paper and leaflets for the University and promoting ourselves at the Festivals, Isbourne Centre and Natural Grocery store on Bath Road.

Quaker Week begins on 30 September. We agreed to request a Quaker Week pack from Friends' House.

We agreed to host AM on **Sunday 11 February 2018** at 1.30pm, when we are asked to respond to the query: '*How does the Truth prosper?*'.

Music in the Meeting Room: Judy Roles will explore whether we can use the keyboard belonging to the Seventh Day Adventists. We should consider what other technology could be available for ourselves and our hirers such as a CD player, speakers and projector.

Kathleen and Brian Robson: Nigel Smith is collecting contributions from members and attenders to add to the Testimony of the lives of Kathleen and Brian Robson. Please send your contributions to Nigel at drnismith@hotmail.com.

NOTES ON JULY AREA MEETING

Membership: Death: We recorded the death of Eleanor Lynne West, attender at Cheltenham Meeting, on 17 June 2017. Rowland Carson attended her funeral on 5 July.

We were pleased to receive an application for membership from Rosalynn Randall, of Nailsworth meeting, supported by Mike Davis and Rosie Bailey. Having heard their minute for her application, we welcomed her with love.

News of Friends: We were pleased to receive the certificate of accomplishment for the marriage of Alan Gorton and Margaret Ann Caine, held at Cirencester Friends Meeting House on Sunday 11 June 2017.

Quaker week: 30 September to 8 October: We noted the circular to Local Meetings from Quaker Life Head of Ministry and Outreach, with offers of resources and exchanged information on some plans under way for that week: Cirencester Friends to host groups of Women's Institute members to their Meeting House on three September Saturdays; Wotton to have a meeting for inquirers on Sunday 8 October; Forest to hold an open meeting with GARAS on refugee experience.

We reminded ourselves to make active use of our website in promoting these and other outreach activities and asked Meetings to contact our website coordinator Peter Carter to post details of upcoming events.

Quaker Life: Our Friend Lis Parker invited us to discuss three topics from a discussion on "Helping Seekers Find Quakers – Being Worth The Finding" at the Quaker Life Rep Council on 21-23 April:

1. what it is about being a Quaker that excites or inspires us;
2. sharing our stories as Quakers; and
3. different ways of being a Quaker community.

We considered these for some ten minutes in three groups, gathering together again for quiet in conclusion.

Quakers and Domestic Violence: Following an initiative from Nailsworth meeting, 13 Friends from across AM attended a meeting in Stroud on 22 June to learn more about the local and national issues caused by domestic abuse. Copies of the report from Caroline Lee from a meeting on 29 June between three of these Friends and the Stroud Beresford Group are attached to these minutes

We recognise that there is learning to be done about this emerging concern to further support the provision of refuges for women and children fleeing abuse.

The next meeting of the group on this topic will be on **Thursday 20 July**, 7.30pm at Nailsworth Meeting House, to which all Friends, men and women, are welcome.

QF&P 24.18

The action of withholding the military proportion of our taxes arose for us from our corporately held testimony that 'the Spirit of Christ which leads us into all truth, will never move us to fight and war against any man with outward weapons, neither for the Kingdom of Christ, nor for the kingdoms of this world'. This testimony may at times lead to resisting the demands of the state, when a higher law (ie God's inner law) makes its first claims on us. We also need to be conscious that if we offend against accepted law, we may have to take the consequences of our action.

Arthur and Ursula Windsor (Gloucester Meeting) 1992