

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

## SEPTEMBER 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>August</b>			
Sunday	27	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	27	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>
<b>September</b>			
Sunday	3	11.50am	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Saturday	9	1.30pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Painswick QMH</b>
Sunday	10	11.30am	<b>Meeting of Elders</b>
Thursday	14	2.00pm	<b>QF&amp;P Study Group</b>
Sunday	17	noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below
Sunday	24	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	24	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>

**Meeting for Learning** in September will be on Restorative Justice and will be led by Dorothy Carson and Judy Roles

**SEPTEMBER COLLECTION** is for the Dabane Support Trust. This Quaker initiative responds to urgent requests for water aid in Zimbabwe. The Dabane Trust offers simple, appropriate and sustainable water abstraction and food production solutions, mostly in semi-arid north and south Matabeleland. Information about the work of the Dabane Trust can be found at [www.dabane.org](http://www.dabane.org)  
Donations can be sent to Michael Kellaway, 71 Roman Way, Glastonbury, BA6 8AD.

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.

### **NO FAITH IN WAR DAY OF ACTION**

You are invited to join other Gloucestershire Quakers on **Tuesday 5 September**.

The DSEI International Arms Fair is taking place at the Excel Centre in London's docklands from **12 to 15 September**. During the previous week, Stop the Arms Fair (which QPSW supports) is organising a programme of protests. Tuesday 5 September is the Faith Day when groups from many different faiths will come together for worship and prayer (some will engage in direct action if they wish.) QPSW have organised a Meeting for Worship at 11.00am, and there will also be a bring and share lunch with faith speakers from 12.30pm.

For more information contact Dorothy or Rowland Carson.

*Worship is our response to an awareness of God... We seek a gathered stillness in our Meetings for Worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us.*

*QF&P 1.02*

**Items for inclusion in the next newsletter** should be sent to the editorial email address or by post to the editor

Janet Weyers by

**Wednesday 13 September** at the latest

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

## **REPORT FROM MEETING FOR LEARNING, 16 JULY 2017** on the topic *Re-inventing Cheltenham Meeting*

We began with a reading of Quaker Faith and Practice 10:11, which asks whether our Meetings are places where newcomers are welcomed and people are nurtured. It closes by saying:

*Our extreme busyness, and the pressure and tension of modern life, make it at once more necessary and at the same time more difficult, that our meetings should 'become living and loving communities.'*

### **How we welcome new attenders**

During the first part of the meeting, we looked at the booklet produced in 2006 by our Friend Iain Main entitled 'Introducing Cheltenham Quaker Meeting', with a view to updating it for 2017. We thanked Iain for all his work on an excellent document and went through it, noting suggested changes. The booklet is intended to be given to people soon after they start attending Meeting, along perhaps with a welcome letter (such as the draft letter prepared by pastoral Friends, also circulated at the Meeting for Learning). The aim is not only to describe the Meeting and how it works, but to include things people might want to know early on, such as how they might be allocated a Pastoral Friend if they wish etc.

Ffriends present felt it would be good to include some photographs and make the booklet more colourful. The group made a number of other suggestions which were noted.

It was agreed that the best way to take this forward might be to convene a small group of two or three Ffriends to produce a draft, incorporating the changes and amendments suggested. This suggestion would be taken to LM.

### **Future structure of Cheltenham Meeting**

The second part of the Meeting for Learning was devoted to exploring one way of restructuring how we work as a Meeting. We need to ensure the continuation of the Meeting as a loving community, with appropriate eldership, pastoral care and administration, given the changing demography of our Members and Attenders. This is imperative now we are coming to the end of the current Triennium.

Other Meetings are sometimes creating 'hubs' or teams whereby roles are grouped together to enable Friends in these roles to be better supported, and to ensure roles are covered if, for example, someone becomes unwell. We looked at an example of this at our workshop *Exploring our Gifts* facilitated by Sue Tuckwell from the Quaker Life Network last November.

At this Meeting for Learning, Jo Teakle and Margaret Sheldrick circulated our current list of 'who does what' in Cheltenham Meeting. They had found that most roles could fall under one of two headings – 'Eldership, Oversight and Clerkship' or 'Finance, Premises and Administration' - and had marked up the list accordingly. They invited Ffriends to look at the list and consider the advantages and disadvantages of working in such a way. This is with a view to seeing if a way of working along these lines might be acceptable to Cheltenham Ffriends. In which case, the next stage would be to take the idea to LM for consideration.

Alison Crane described the structure of Spicelands Meeting, which has three hubs or groups: Central (Eldership, Oversight, Clerk and Nominations), Property (premises and finance) and Communications (library, outreach, events, website, notices, newsletter).

Rowland Carson pointed out how these three groupings corresponded to a useful division of workload he had come across before of 'Us', 'Stuff' and 'Them' respectively!

Advantages:

- Less onus and pressure on individuals, particularly if there are few in specific roles such as Elder or Pastoral Friend.
- Greater flexibility.
- Support for Ffriends in their roles.
- Might encourage Ffriends' willingness to serve.
- Awareness of what needs doing should someone be unwell.

Disadvantages:

- Could be confusing.
- Who takes responsibility for safeguarding and record-keeping?
- Would it actually work in practice?

There was a general feeling that such a system might work well, but along the lines of three hubs as in Spicelands, rather than two.

**We would now like to invite further comment from Ffriends, and also from Friends who could not attend the Meeting for Learning. Please respond to Jo Teakle or Margaret Sheldrick by Monday 18 September if possible.**

Jo Teakle

## QUAKER WEEK

Gloucester Quakers invite you to an Act of Worship for Healing at Gloucester Friends Meeting House, Greyfriars, GL1 1TS on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2017 from 10.30 to 12.30

The focus for healing might include  
All life on the planet and the environment  
Societies and conflicts throughout the world  
Our town and city communities  
Our faith communities  
Family and friends  
And ourselves

**We welcome everyone to our healing meeting  
– those of all faiths and none.**

Please feel free to join us at any time, for any length of time.

People can reflect; share; pray; meditate – TAKE PART.

*As we open ourselves to become the channel of God's healing grace we shall find that healing is given to those who pray as well as to those for whom we are praying.*

*Jack Dobbs, 1984, 21.73 Quaker Faith and Practice*

**The Meeting House will be open from 10am** with tea and coffee available before we start. If you would like to stay afterwards for a while, please feel free to bring a picnic lunch - drinks will be available.

See our website: [www.glosquakers.org](http://www.glosquakers.org)

## GREEN WALKING GROUP: AN INVITATION FROM JOHN GEALE

I am interested in starting a 'green' walking group, using public transport.

(eg I have recently walked two stretches of the Cotswold Way between Painswick and Dursley, combined with using the 61 bus.)

The group would:

- \* promote/support local (rural) buses
- \* develop fellowship – initially between Quakers, but hopefully drawing in others
- \* walk between 10am and 3pm (approx), taking a packed lunch
- \* do various distances, normally 8 or 9 miles max
- \* start or finish in either Stroud or Nailworth (which are connected by the 63's excellent 30 mins service)

If you would be interested, please let me know - by the beginning of September.

## CHARITY COLLECTIONS

We will be looking at the list of charities which we collect for (basket collections) in the autumn and hope to bring an amended list to LM in November, for use in 2018. If you have ideas for a new charity you would like us to collect for, or one you particularly would like to see kept, please let me know as soon as possible. We agreed in the past that charities should preferably be small, local and/or with Quaker connections,

Janet Weyers

## BALFOUR DECLARATION CENTENARY CONFERENCE

Cheltenham Quakers are supporting this important conference organised by local churches. The all day conference (£15 including lunch) is on 23rd Sept and is about Israel and Palestine. The associated exhibition is open that weekend and the preceding week, and is about tapestries embroidered by Palestinian women. The venue is Christchurch Cheltenham. All details and booking information at <http://www.balfour2017.co.uk/>.

Please see page 4 for further information

# An Exhibition of Images from the Palestinian History Tapestry Project



The exhibition is on display from  
**Tuesday September 19 –  
Friday September 22**  
10am to 4pm

**Sunday Sept 24, from 12 noon**  
(closed Saturday September 23)

A Powerpoint talk by a co-founder  
of the Project will be on  
**Sunday 24 September, 3.30pm**

Admission Free to Exhibition and Talk  
The Hub Gallery, Christ Church  
Malvern Road, Cheltenham GL50 2JH

The **Palestinian History Tapestry Project** is a charity supporting Palestinian women embroiderers to stitch the story of their land and people in panels to be linked to form a tapestry. There is a strong heritage of beautiful embroidery in Palestine – a skill handed down through the generations. These embroiderers are women struggling to survive under military occupation, under siege in Gaza, in refugee camps across the Middle East. Involvement in this creative project provides a modest income and a source of self-esteem and hope.

The exhibition displays images of a selection of the panels completed to date and samples of the original embroideries.  
[www.pht2012.wordpress.com](http://www.pht2012.wordpress.com)



A DAY CONFERENCE to mark the  
CENTENARY of the BALFOUR DECLARATION

ISRAEL

PALESTINE

WHAT NEXT?

What's it got to do with me?  
What can we do?

Speakers: Dr Mustafa Barghouti and Robert Cohen

Christ Church, Malvern Road, Cheltenham GL50 2JH

Saturday 23rd September 2017, 10am - 4.30pm

Entrance £15 including Palestinian Buffet Lunch

BOOK NOW at [balfour2017@outlook.com](mailto:balfour2017@outlook.com)

MORE INFORMATION at [www.balfour2017.co.uk](http://www.balfour2017.co.uk)

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