

# CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

## OCTOBER 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>September</b>			
Sunday	24	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	24	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>
<b>October</b>			
Sunday	1	11.50am	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Saturday	8	1.30pm	<b>Area Meeting for Worship for Business</b> at Stroud Old Town Hall
Thursday	12	2.00pm	<b>QF&amp;P Study Group</b>
Sunday	15	noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below
Sunday	22	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	22	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>
Sunday	29	10.30	<b>Fifth Sunday</b> Semi-programmed Meeting plus shared lunch

**Meeting for Learning:** Sunday 15 October noon. Local historians Neela Mann and Jill Waller will be talking to us about *Cheltenham's Quaker Burial Ground and a few research findings*. Sparked by leading a tour of the Lower High St area for Cheltenham's heritage open days, and by meeting the current owner of the former burial ground in Grove St, Neela and Jill have been doing some research. As well as piecing together the history of the burial ground, the research is providing a fascinating insight into social history, and revealing stories of some of the Quakers involved, and the insights into the lives of some of the poor people who used and looked after the site when it was a "recreation ground". See Local Meeting Notes for more info – also ask June for a loan of the interesting article she has by Carolyn Greet which draws on the diaries of a Quaker visiting Cheltenham in the late eighteenth century to take the waters.

**Fifth Sunday semi-programmed Meeting for Worship:** Sunday 29 October will be on the theme 'Coming Home'. This is the title of a book written by Gerald Priestland as an introduction to Quakers but what does the word 'home' mean to us? Is it the place where we grew up, somewhere that we feel loved and accepted, the destination of our spiritual journey or something else?

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.

**OCTOBER COLLECTION** is for Carers Gloucestershire. This is an independent, Carer led charitable organisation that seeks to empower Carers across the County to promote their rights and enable them to make positive choices to improve the quality of their lives. They offer information, support, advice and advocacy to all Carers in Gloucestershire, including a short breaks service, training and emergency scheme. The charity runs a help line 0300 111 9000.

Donations can be sent to Carers Gloucestershire, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Messenger House, 35 St Michaels Square, Gloucester, GL1 1HX. Website is [www.carersgloucestershire.org.uk](http://www.carersgloucestershire.org.uk). Tel:01452 386283

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 16 October** at the latest

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

## NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER LOCAL MEETING

**John Cross:** A Meeting for Worship to celebrate the life of our Friend, John Cross was held on 7 August 2017. We wish to support the writing of a Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of John Cross.

**Legacy Project Team:** Members of the Legacy Project Team have inspected previous work done at Highbury Church by the preferred architect and as a result they and Area Meeting Trustees are now satisfied that he is suitable to carry out the work we are planning. We agree to appoint Peter Ireland of Void Projects to provide architectural services, and to manage and supervise the building work. All communication with Peter Ireland on behalf of the Meeting is to be through Alison Crane, with Rowland Carson as deputy when Alison is unavailable.

**Health of the Meeting:** We are asked to answer 'How does the Truth prosper?' at AM in Cheltenham on 11 February. We intend to look honestly at ourselves and present a balanced report including our concerns and how we are responding to them. In the past a questionnaire has been used to prompt Friends to contribute ideas. We need practical proposals to meet the needs of the end of the Triennium in January 2018. We plan to take this further at our next LM.

**Friends Burial Ground:** Two local historians Neela Mann and Jill Waller are researching the old Friends Burial Ground in Grove Street (off Lower High Street) which is up for sale for development. Friends sold the land in for £25 in 1921 with a restriction that the actual burial ground should not be built on. Wm Mason, discoverer of the first spring's properties and his daughter, Elizabeth Skillicorne are buried there. We asked June and Alison to liaise with Neela to arrange to talk to us at the third Sunday in October or November.

**Peace Messenger Report:** Alison Crane reported that there is an opportunity for us as Quakers to work more closely with the local Stop the War group. They are keen to have a more visible presence in town, and have mentioned the possibility of distributing white poppies. Local Quakers could be involved by physically joining them, and/or by contributing to the cost of buying poppies. A crochet pattern for making white poppies can be found as an appendix to the LM Minutes in the drawer in the lobby or from Dinah Clements. The inclusion of a wreath or red and white flowers in British Legion commemorations will be pursued.

## NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER AREA MEETING

**Stonehouse:** The clerk reported that a newly formed Worship Group plans to meet in the Committee Room at Stonehouse Community Centre at 3.30pm on the third Monday of each month for half hour worship, followed by refreshments. Although set up for Friends living in the Stonehouse area, all Friends are welcome to join them. Costs of hiring the room are offered by AM. Enquiries to Liz Green or Jude Emmet.

**New Membership:** We were pleased to receive an application for membership from John Linsell of Painswick meeting, supported by Leslie Tether and Judy Quick. Having heard their minute of support, we were delighted to welcome him into our community.

**Nominations:** We were pleased to appoint Peter Carter to serve as Area Meeting Clerk for the next triennium starting January 2018.

**White Poppies – progress:** Following our June AM discernment (17/32) we are glad to learn that several Meetings are engaging in dialogue both with local Churches Together and Royal British Legion.

We note that our website now has a short information article produced by Nailsworth Meeting entitled 'Poppy meanings' which Nailsworth hopes to get published in the local press some time in October.

Elyn Mitchell has a supply of white poppies which she will be glad to distribute on request to other Meetings.

**Summer Camp:** Martin Quick gave us a report of this year's camp, held at Ringstead Bay on the Dorset coast from 5 to 13 August, with about 35 campers. Activities included onsite activities in the large marquee, bathing and beach time, coastal walks, daily Meetings for Worship and a camp concert on the last evening. Children shared in preparation of meals; young adults volunteered for routine tasks; all participated in the three discussions based on Advices and Queries. The camp's simplicity is for many a part of its ethos.

We thanked Martin for this report and for his service from the start of the camp some fifty years ago.

### *Qf&p 27.26*

*This is the truth which we know and try to live....that every person is capable of response to the divine Spirit; that this Spirit, or Light, or God reaches out to each one directly and freely; that if we follow the leadings of this Spirit faithfully we are led out of sin into unity with the divine will; that this unity leads us into love of and care for all humankind, who are our kin; that what the Spirit shows us is living truth which cannot be fettered by words.*

*Janet Scott 1980*

## 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 23 September 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/>.

(September 2017)

**Notes:**

This calendar keeps to **eight** Area Meetings in the year with the ‘free months’ (as in 2017) being January, May, August and November.

The main changes this year **are:**

- two evening meetings instead of one (to avoid AM as a daytime weekend event conflicting with the annual national Heritage weekend in early Sept)
- afternoon weekend meetings all starting at 2pm

As before, the calendar also avoids

- longer journeys to Forest or Wotton in winter months.
- Saturday or weekday evenings hosted by Stroud and Forest Friends\*
- Saturdays hosted by Gloucester meeting\*

*\*(when other users of their premises take priority)*

Those Meetings whose turn it is in our cycle to respond to the query ‘*how does the truth prosper among you?*’ are Cheltenham and Forest.

Unless otherwise advertised, refreshments will precede evening meetings, and follow afternoon ones.

Pat Beard and Jane Mace  
AM clerks

Day	Date	Time	Meeting	Location
	January			
Sunday	11 Feb	2.0pm	Cheltenham	Cheltenham FMH
Saturday	10 March	2.0pm	Cirencester	Cirencester FMH
Sunday	8 April	2.0pm	Forest	Staunton Village Hall
	May			
Sunday	10 June	2.0pm	Wotton	Chipping Clubroom
Thursday	5 July	7.0pm	Painswick	Painswick FMH
	August			
Thursday	6 Sept	7.0pm	Nailsworth	Nailsworth FMH
Sunday	14 October	2.0pm	Gloucester	Gloucester FMH
	November			
Sunday	9 Dec	2.0pm	Stroud	Stroud library