

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

## NOVEMBER 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>October</b>			
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
<b>November</b>			
Sunday	5	11.50am	<b>Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Thursday	9	2.00pm	<b>QF&amp;P Study Group</b>
Sunday	19	noon	<b>Meeting for Learning</b> see below
Sunday	26	morning	<b>Sale of Fair Trade Products</b>
Sunday	26	noon	<b>Worship Sharing</b>

**Meeting for Learning:** on 19 November will be *Why I am a Quaker* led by Helen Pemberton

**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.

**NOVEMBER COLLECTION** is for Hamper Scamper run by County Community Projects. Hamper Scamper is CCP's Christmas Giving Scheme, designed to spread a little cheer to some of the most disadvantaged children, young people, families and vulnerable adults at Christmas.

Donations can be given through the website [www.ccp.org.uk](http://www.ccp.org.uk) or sent to 301 High Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3HW. Telephone: 0300 365 8999

If you would like to contribute items towards the hampers, a list of suitable foods are on the website.

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.

### ***From Quaker faith & practice 3.02***

*In our meetings for worship we seek through the stillness to know God's will for ourselves and for the gathered group. Our meetings for church affairs, in which we conduct our business, are also meetings for worship based on silence, and they carry the same expectation that God's guidance can be discerned if we are truly listening together, and to each other, and are not blinkered by preconceived opinions. It is this belief that God's will can be recognised through the discipline of silent waiting which distinguishes our decision making from the secular idea of consensus. We have a common purpose in seeking God's will through waiting and listening, believing that every activity of life should be the subject of divine guidance.*

**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 20 November** at the latest

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

## NOTES FROM OCTOBER LOCAL MEETING

**Future of the Meeting:** Jo Teakle reported from Nominations Committee.

We thanked Lydia Sutcliffe for her long term service to this Meeting.

Julie Stubbs is willing to continue as LM treasurer paying in contributions and Janet Weyers, recently appointed as assistant treasurer, is happy to support her.

We agreed to organise a rota of assistant clerks for Local Meetings in 2018. Pat Dannahy offered to take on the role of circulating communications from Friends' House via News of Friends.

Pastoral Friends hope to introduce a twice monthly mid-week evening meeting in the near future. Meetings may also take place in the evenings in people's homes like the Quaker Faith and Practice sessions.

We agreed that a combined role of elder with pastoral oversight should be introduced with six individuals to cover this area of work. We agree to bring this proposal to AM.

Are we willing to pay for roles such as treasurer and webmaster? Rowland offered to prepare a position paper on a paid webmaster.

We agreed to hold an additional LM in November to continue this work.

**Peace Messenger Report:** Dorothy and Rowland went to the "No Faith in War" gathering outside the Excel Centre in London on Tuesday 5 September, to bear witness against the arms fair. The day included a Quaker Meeting for Worship, as well as people, including Quakers, being arrested for blockading the road in an attempt to disrupt deliveries. There should be a report in the AM newsletter.

The Peace Group agreed that we should write to the companies with a presence in Gloucestershire, who exhibited at the Arms Fair to express our concern and ask them to concentrate on the more positive aspects of their expertise.

We hope to raise this at Area Meeting.

White Poppies: LM has agreed to fund a wreath again this year, if we get the necessary permission.

## OCTOBER AREA MEETING NOTES

**Membership:** We are pleased to confirm the transfer in to our Area Meeting of Virginia Pawlyn from Banbury and Evesham AM and accept that for the time being Virginia would like to be listed as an unattached member, intervisiting among Local Meetings.

Gloucester Meeting have on a number of occasions contacted these Friends who have not been to Meeting for a long time, to ask whether they wish to remain on our lists: Lorna Cox, Timothy Lewis, David Bell and Valerie Heaven – and have met with no response. We agreed to their recommendation that their membership should be terminated in accordance with QF&P 11.30b

**Peace Group:** We agreed to send a letter from Area Meeting to all the companies in Gloucestershire that had participated in the September Arms Fair in London to urge them to consider not participating in the next one (in 2019). Alison Crane, Cal Anton-Smith and AM clerk are taking this forward.

**Tea Party:** The clerks proposed a tea party on Saturday 4 November in Cirencester Meeting House, to provide fellowship and a celebration for the next issue of our AM newsletter.

**AM criminal justice group: update** We heard from Wendy Gerard that since the Criminal Justice Group was formed at the AM in June, the full group has met twice and have considered three situations related to three Local Meetings. More information on this can be found in attachments to the AM Minutes.

**Sustainability group:** We received with appreciation an update from Alison Crane of developments in the Footpaths Programme, following our QPSW-funded training for facilitators in April (see the attachment to AM Minutes for more information). We were pleased to learn of groups started since then. We noted that there is to be a second training weekend for new facilitators in November, which already has some signed up and encourage Friends to contact Alison for further details.

**How does the truth prosper? Stroud Friends respond**

We heard a lively report from Stroud Friends on their reflections about Meeting life and their involvement with the wider world which we also appreciated in a display of photographs.

## 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 December, 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