

CHELTHENHAM QUAKER

DECEMBER 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.)

November			
Sunday	26	morning	Sale of Fair Trade Products
Sunday	26	noon	Worship Sharing
December			
Sunday	3	11.50am	Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	7	6.30pm	New midweek meeting see below
Sunday	10	1.30pm	Area Meeting for Business at Gloucester QMH
Thursday	14	2.00pm	QF&P Study Group
Sunday	17	10.30am	Meeting for Worship with music
Thursday	21	6.30pm	New midweek meeting see below
Sunday	24	noon	Worship Sharing
Sunday	31	10.30am	No special arrangement for fifth Sunday

NEW – Mid-week meetings– An experiment with mid-week meetings is to take place at the Meeting House from December. These are expected to happen on the first and third Thursdays of the month from 6.30pm to 9.00pm. We hope to share food along with worshipful fellowship exploring life-giving spiritual practice(s). The dates for December are Thursday 7 December and Thursday 21 December.

For the first evening we invite participants to a bring and share supper. We will then explore possible takeaway options for future gatherings.

Suggested topics for exploration include: Lectio Divina, Bible Study, Experiment with Light, Centering Prayer, Tree of Contemplative Practice, Kindler's Series, Deepening the Life of the Spirit, Spiritual Direction.

For more information please speak to Jo Joy or Pastoral Friends/Elders.

DECEMBER COLLECTION is for Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK). This charity, run by Quakers in Yorkshire, raises funds in this country for its sister charitable organisation in Myanmar, Hope for Shining Stars. This provides educational opportunities for children from poor backgrounds, often from begging and scavenging families. Support is for everything from literacy classes, family support for a child who is going to school, to vocational training and courses in higher education. The website for more information and to donate is www.s4sk.org.uk. Or send a cheque, payable to Scholarships for Street Kids to: The Treasurer (S4SK) 72-74 Sun St., Haworth, W. Yorks., BD22 8AH.

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 THE LIBRARIANS

The Librarians would like to ask Friends **not** to donate unwanted books, or books for which they have no room, to the Meeting. Please take them instead to the Red Cross bookshop in Bath Road or the Oxfam bookshop.

We are no longer having book sales as many Friends are downsizing or going into care and do not wish to amass more books.

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

Cal Anton-Smith by
Friday 15 December at the latest

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

NOTES FROM NOVEMBER LOCAL MEETING

The theme for the whole of this LM was “The future of our Meeting”. We began with a reading from *Quakers in Transition* by Craig Bennett, a Sheffield Quaker currently an Elder for his Area Meeting. In his writing ‘A Simplified Meeting’ he says that we are working so hard just to keep things going that we find ourselves overloaded with jobs which may not be necessary. He says it is important to refocus on what is essential, and all of our structures, committees, roles and property exist for just one purpose – to help us attend to the Inward Guide and to follow it. We need the service of Friends who, between them, can offer the ministries of clerking and pastoral care that enable our Meetings to be rightly ordered, and all other roles and responsibilities, including legal and financial matters are entirely secondary. He quotes from Thomas Kelly, Qf&p 20.36 who says that life can become simplified when dominated by faithfulness to a few concerns.

In order to attempt this simplification we split into three groups to consider how our Meeting might run with all jobs being divided between three hubs:

Clerkship, eldership and oversight; Administration and premises; Communication.

Among suggestions were that a convenor would be an important link between the hub and LM. We foresaw some difficulties in including hub meetings within LM, but thought we could have an agenda slot for each hub at each LM. In the past there were regular reports from sub-groups in the Meeting. Outsourcing Lettings and Premises matters might reduce the workload involved but might reduce income.

Spiceland Meeting, from whom the idea of hubs came, has one Treasurer in the Area Meeting, who oversees all the LMs, who each just have a bookkeeper.

Nominations Committee brought several new names for consideration and the names of Friends willing to continue their current roles into the next triennium. These were accepted and the full list is at the back of this newsletter.

Joseph and Ellie Fuller are seeking to set up a group for Gloucestershire Area under-30s and asked if we could let them know of any possible contacts among young people. This suggestion was welcomed. Our Clerk is forwarding them some details, for example the Link Group, but please contact Joe and Ellie if you know any younger people who might like to become involved with Friends.

CHANGE OF EDITOR

As this triennium comes to a close, at the end of the year, this will be the last newsletter that I will edit. When Nominations came up with my name six years ago I was a little surprised, as I have limited desktop skills and it wasn't something I had ever thought of doing. However, I have always seen the value of good communication between Friends as a way of building community and a feeling of inclusion. So thank you, Nominations Committee, it has been an interesting and worthwhile job, and I have enjoyed doing it. (And I have learnt how to put things into columns!) Many thanks to Iain Main for his careful proofreading and printing it.

REINDEER'S REPORT

Chimneys: colder.
Flightpaths: busier.
Driver: Christmas (F)
Still baffled by postcodes.

Children: more
And stay up later.
Presents: heavier.
Pay: frozen

Mission in spite
Of all this
Accomplished

MERRY CHRISTMAS

U A Fanthorpe from *Collected Poems 1978-2003* with permission

Nominations and Appointments for the Next Triennium Commencing January 2018

The following nominations were made and found acceptable to Friends at Local Meeting on 5 November 2017. Nominations are still being sought for a few remaining posts – these will be brought to December Local Meeting.

Please note that Elders and Pastoral Friends, and Trustee, are posts that are nominated by Local Meeting but appointed by Area Meeting (AM). We will be submitting the names for these posts to December Area Meeting for appointment, as well as reporting to AM some other appointments such as Clerk and Funeral Friends as we are required to do.

Clerk - Nigel Smith with clerking rota support (to be reviewed March 2018)

Agreed last LM: Correspondence Clerk - Pat Dannahy

Clerking Rota so far: Dorothy and Rowland Carson, Tim Howarth, Alison Crane

Elders and Pastoral Friends

Jo Teakle (Elder with Pastoral Oversight)

Alwyn Burton (Elder)

Judy Roles (Elder)

Margaret Sheldrick (Elder)

Nigel Smith (Pastoral Friend) (to be reviewed March 2018)

Maureen Steffen (Pastoral Friend) Maureen is laying down the Advices and Queries rota

Margaret Cooper (Pastoral Friend)

Evelyn Shaw (Pastoral Friend)

Supporting Friends - Dinah Clements and Rowland Carson

Funeral Friends - Tim Howarth, Evelyn Shaw and Alwyn Burton

Rowland and Dorothy Carson are laying this role down, but will offer support if necessary.

Hospital Spiritual Care Contact - Alwyn Burton

Nominations - Dorothy Carson

Further names being sought.

Treasurer Contributions and Treasurer Online Administrator - Tim Howarth

Treasurer Authorising Payments- Elma Detheridge

Trustee - Tim Howarth

Premises Committee - Nigel Smith (to be reviewed March 2018) and Alison Crane

Young People's and Children's Committee - Nigel Smith (to be reviewed March 2018),

Jo Teakle, Cal Anton Smith and Helen Pemberton

Assistant Lettings Officer - Nigel Smith (to be reviewed March 2018)

Webmaster - Rowland Carson

Meeting House Development Project Team - Rowland Carson and Cal Anton-Smith

Woodbrooke Correspondent - Dorothy Carson

Peace Messenger - Alison Crane

Notices - Julie Stubbs

News of Friends and Cheltenham Quaker (Newsletter) Editor - Cal Anton-Smith

Newsletter Printing - Iain Main

Newsletter Support with Transport - Noel Baker

LM Members and Attenders List - Evelyn Shaw

Library

Peter Robinson, Librarian

Margaret Cooper, Assistant Librarian

Liz Bettles helping

Sunday Duties Rota Compiler - Iain Main

Room Hire Emergency Keyholders - Jane and Ian Brighton