

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

FEBRUARY 2018

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**A thought from Quaker faith & practice. From 20.14**

Margaret Glover 1989

*We cannot know the prayers that others make or do not make in their own times of silent aloneness. We cannot know the letters others may be writing to governments, similarly... We were all made differently, in order to perform different tasks. Let us rejoice in our differences..*

## CALENDAR

(All of these meetings are at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated.)

<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
Thursday	1	6.30pm	<b>Mid-Week Meeting* (see below)</b>
Sunday	4	10.30	<b>Meeting for Worship Local Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Sunday	11	10.30 noon	<b>Meeting for Worship Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Cheltenham</b>
Thursday	15	6.30pm	<b>Mid-Week Meeting* (see below)</b>
Sunday	18	10.30	<b>Meeting for Worship Meeting for Learning: Alwyn Burton - Spiritual Care in hospital (see below)</b>
Sunday	25	10.30 noon	<b>Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Worship Sharing</b>

**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.

\*Mid-Week Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month from 6.30pm to 9pm.  
For more information please speak to Jo Joy or Pastoral Friends/Elders

## MEETING FOR LEARNING REPORT: January 21<sup>st</sup> Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, Cal Anton-Smith

I am a member of the community group Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees (CWR), which works in partnership with GARAS\* to help resettle and integrate refugee families in Gloucestershire. My particular interest is with the CWR community building and education groups. With 100 Syrian families due to arrive in Gloucestershire over the next 5 years under the Government resettlement scheme, increasingly primary schools in Gloucestershire are accommodating children from Syrian refugee and other refugee and asylum seeking families. CWR developed a primary school assembly based around a rucksack and its owner, Sara. The story explains who a refugee is and Sara's journey to the UK. I visit local primary schools performing the assembly. As a primary school teacher, I joined CWR as I had several years experience working with refugee families in Lincoln, Nebraska, USA, where I lived for eleven years. Nebraska and particularly Lincoln, has a history of welcoming refugee families to the US.

\*GARAS Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers

<http://cheltenhamwelcomesrefugees.org.uk/>

**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

**Monday 19th FEBRUARY** at the latest

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

## MEETING FOR LEARNING: February 18<sup>th</sup> @ noon

Spiritual Care in hospital:

What is spiritual care? What is our experience of spiritual care in hospital? Can it meet our needs as Quakers? Can we draw up a blueprint to inform the hospital team about what we would like?

**FEBRUARY COLLECTION** is for Friends Therapeutic Trust (Glebe House). This charitable Trust provides specialist interventions for young men between the ages of 15 and 18 with a known history of harmful sexual behaviours. It was set up in the late 1960s in response to the concerns of a Quaker Probation Officer and offers an emotionally secure and monitored environment, encouraging residents to recognise and effectively reduce the risks (emotional and physical) to themselves, to children, to their families and to the wider community. Donations can be made via the website [www.ftctrust.org.uk](http://www.ftctrust.org.uk) or by sending a cheque to made out to Friends Therapeutic Community Trust to The Treasurer, Glebe House, Shudy Camps, Cambridgeshire, CB21 4QH.

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.

## MID-WEEK MEETING – January 4<sup>th</sup> 2018

Joseph Fuller writes:

On Thursday evening five Friends met for Mid-Week Meeting. We shared another delicious bring and share meal which provided a great chance to catch up with each other following the Christmas period.

After this we moved through to the Meeting Room where we had a few minutes of silence before we engaged with Quaker Faith and Practice. We had planned to share favourite passages from the book and the conversations became powerful very quickly. In the end we only shared a couple of passages in full as they led to such rich conversation. Friends talked of their wider experience of QF&P and its position in their life and we related our thoughts back to a number of remembered snippets from other passages as well as non-Quaker texts. We also touched on the productive tension of words and silence in our experience as Quakers. In the end we all agreed that there was plenty more to be discussed from the book. We ended the evening with a short period of silent worship.

These are the 2 passages that were shared in full on the evening:

22.50

*Some situations which cause pain or suffering are avoidable, so part of our learning must be to analyse the situation and see if this is such a case. If it is, we must try to prevent it happening again. But perhaps the most painful situations are those that are apparently beyond our control. Another part of our learning is to recognise that there is unfairness, uncertainty, fear, loneliness and hurt in this world; learning to accept that this is the nature of the world can, of itself, be painful.*

*Initially we may be able to do little, bound up in an acute, self-centred pain. As we try to cope with the anger, the pain and grief that come through some unhappy experience, we can learn a lot about the less-well-articulated, darker sides of our personality. These darker aspects should not be ignored. Although we tend to equate evil with darkness, we should remember that in the plant world roots grow in the dark. Darkness (and shadows) are as much a part of the natural order as light.*

S Jocelyn Burnell, 1989

24.60

*The first Friends had an apocalyptic vision of the world transformed by Christ and they set about to make it come true. The present generation of Quakers shares this conviction of the power of the spirit, but it is doubtful whether it will transform the world in our lifetime, or in that of our children or children's children. For us it is not so important when the perfect world will be achieved or what it will be like. What matters is living our lives in the power of love and not worrying too much about the results. In doing this, the means become part of the end. Hence we lose the sense of helplessness and futility in the face of the world's crushing problems. We also lose the craving for success, always focusing on the goal to the exclusion of the way of getting there. We must literally not take too much thought for the morrow but throw ourselves whole-heartedly into the present. That is the beauty of the way of love; it cannot be planned and its end cannot be foretold.*

Wolf Mendl, 1974

## LONE WORKERS' POLICY

Premises Committee wish to draw Friends' attention to the Lone Workers' Policy and risk assessment, which is on the noticeboard in the Tea Room, along with a more general health and safety policy. A "lone worker" can be any Friend who goes to the Meeting House on their own to do a task. It does not normally apply to someone who arrives first for a meeting.

The policy document was produced by Trustees and provides advice on personal safety. It lists possible risks from lone working in the Cheltenham Quaker Meeting House, whether by volunteers, staff or contractors. Lone workers should be aware of the risks and seek to minimise them in accordance with the advice and guidance attached to the policy.

#### **LOCAL MEETING FOR WORSHIP Agenda - February 4<sup>th</sup>**

- AM at Cheltenham
- Nominations
- Financial Report
- Collections for Charity 2018
- Safeguarding
- Legacy Project update
- Parking solution
- Truth Prosper
- Hubs
- Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees
- Peace Messenger Report

#### **NOTES FROM JANUARY AREA MEETING** (postponed from December 2017)

##### **Membership:**

##### **1. Appointments**

Judy Roles (Cheltenham): clerk to Quaker Life Prison Chaplain Committee.

Wendy Gerard (Nailsworth): trustee of Quaker Housing Trust

Colin Brow (Forest): member of the QPSW Economics, Sustainability & Peace Sub-Committee

##### **2. Deaths**

Bunty Biggs ( Stroud), Jan Travers-Clark ( Nailsworth) and Iain Main (Cheltenham)

**3. Transfers:** Tim Cocksedge - out, Ruth Pedder – in (Painswick)

**4. Resignations:** Martin Skues, Gloucester, Stephen Haygarth, Painswick

##### **5. Terminations**

From Cheltenham: Eleanor Crawford , Jane Shettar, Margaret Sheils, Molly Tibbles, David Williams.

##### **Other:**

##### **1. AM roles for the triennium** Jan 2018-December 2020

Clerk: Peter Carter , Stroud

Assistant Clerk: Elyn Mitchell, Gloucester

##### **2. Testimony to the grace of God**

Stroud Friends seek to prepare a Testimony to the grace of God in the life of Bunty Biggs.

Mary Brown, Margaret Cox & Sue Barrance will form a group to undertake this process. Friends with an interest in helping in this to contact Mary Brown.

##### **3. Gloucester meeting**

A three-year agreement has been negotiated with Ash and Company as agents for the hiring of the Meeting House and – through them - the letting of the flat.

##### **4. Glos Quakers and Womens Refuge**

A report was received from Jenny Daisley, (Nailsworth) on the continuing work of a group of Friends who have been meeting to deepen their understanding of the issue of violence against women and to discern practical things that can be done.

##### **5. Meeting for Sufferings**

Colin Brown (Forest) reported on the two most recent meetings: on 7<sup>th</sup> October in Manchester and 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Friends' House, focusing, among other things, on:

- the work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness – including that on “forced migration” which led to the “Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto ” on which future work is now being based
- Full revision of QF&P

##### **6. ‘Sanctuary Everywhere’ conference 3-5 December**

Wendy Gerard (Nailsworth) and Dorothy Carson (Cheltenham) reported on an inspiring weekend in Brussels.

- Local Meetings were asked to gather information on initiatives to support refugees and asylum seekers in their localities and to consider the invitation to become a Sanctuary Meeting and return with their discernment to a future Area Meeting.

##### **7. Arms Fair: follow up**

**Letters from this AM** to the chief executives of seven Gloucestershire companies involved in the production of arms and arms-related services, asking them to avoid the arms fair in future, to consider ways to transform their production focus to peace building outputs and to meet to discuss these suggestions.

**8. Next Area Meeting:** Sunday 11 Feb, 2pm Area Meeting, Cheltenham Meeting House