

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

MARCH 2018

<http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/home.php>



<https://www.facebook.com/gloucestershirequakers/>

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A thought from Quaker faith & practice. From 10.19

Parker J Palmer 1977

In a true community we will not choose our companions, for our choices are so often limited by self-serving motives. Instead, our companions will be given to us by grace. Often they will be persons who will upset our settled view of self and world. In fact, we might define true community as the place where the person you least want to live with always lives!

CALENDAR

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

MARCH			
Thursday	1	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting* (see below)
Sunday	4	10.30 11.50	Meeting for Worship Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	8	7-9 pm	Mid-Week Meeting – Young Adult Friends * (see below)
Saturday	10	2pm	Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Cirencester
Thursday	15	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting (see below)
Sunday	18	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Learning: Joseph Fuller - My Work with Young Adult Friends (see below)
Thursday	22	7-9 pm	Mid-Week Meeting – Young Adult Friends *
Sunday	25	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Meeting of Clerkship, Eldership and Oversight Hub

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 - 6.30pm to 9pm.**

For more information please speak to Jo Joy, tel: 01452 855873 or Pastoral Friends/Elders

*** MID-WEEK MEETING for Young Adult Friends (18-35ish) 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month - 7 to 9pm**

Ellie Hargreaves and Joseph Fuller, Young Friends at Cheltenham Meeting have launched a regular mid-week space for young adults (aged 18-35ish) to meet, explore Quakerism and their faith, socialise and have fun. They plan to do a variety of activities from Quaker short courses, perhaps introductory sessions on Quakerism, time looking at Quaker Faith and Practice, friendly bible studies, evenings looking at interfaith and social action as well as shared meals, board games, and film nights.

Both regular attenders and those new to Quakers from any local Meeting are all very welcome.

They will meet on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9pm each month, at Cheltenham Meeting House, Warwick Place GL52 2NP

MEETING FOR LEARNING: March 18th @ noon

My Work with Young Adult Friends – Joseph Fuller

Joseph will be talking about his experience as a young adult Quaker and specifically his role as an elder within YFGM (Young Friends General Meeting). YFGM has gatherings 3 times a year at different locations across the country. He hopes to describe some of the challenges and joys of being a member of an occasional, travelling and, in an individual sense, ultimately temporary Meeting, and how it all sits alongside attending his local Meeting.

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 March at the latest
Web address: <http://www.cheltenhamquaker.org.uk/newsletters.php>

MEETING FOR LEARNING REPORT: February 18th

Spiritual Care in Gloucester and Cheltenham Hospitals by Alwyn Burton

There are 3 full time paid Chaplains and one part time post. Three of the Chaplains are Christian and one is Muslim. They are on call 24 hours a day. They can contact other faith leaders in most religions.

To help them they have 160 volunteers over the two sites who are their eyes and ears. The volunteers will visit most wards during the week on two or more occasions.

If you are in hospital you are likely to have a Chaplaincy visit. What is spiritual care? At it's simplest it is 'telling your story'. So the team is there to offer you support spiritually and emotionally in whatever way meets your need at that particular time. You may want to talk about the book you are reading, your family, your illness, your faith. You may want someone to just listen or you may want someone to pray with you. Or you may just want to be left alone to rest. The team is there to listen to what you need.

MARCH COLLECTION is for Cheltenham Open Door. This charity, originally founded in 1992 as Open Door at Christmas, has now expanded and developed its work supporting vulnerable, disadvantaged and lonely people throughout the year, working to relieve poverty, hardship and social and emotional distress. Guests are men and women who have been deprived of the comforts and security most of us take for granted and they are offered hospitality, warmth, food and somewhere to relax. Donations of food, clothing and small pieces of furniture (see their list of items required) and money can be taken direct to their premises at 39 Grosvenor Street, GL52 2SQ, or donated by post, or online at cheltenhamopendoor.org.uk Tel: 01242 57741

Their Treasurer can be contacted directly for more information at pandhturner@blueyonder.co.uk
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.

BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING 4 – 7th MAY 2018

All Friends (whether in membership or not) are invited to participate in Yearly Meeting to be held at Friends House, London. Yearly Meeting is when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, make decisions and spend time as a community. Yearly Meetings are also occasions in which we can learn, practise, improve, and take back to our local meetings ways of conducting business which are rooted in Quaker tradition and our own experience yet also meet contemporary challenges. Yearly Meeting will be considering whether it is time to revise *Quaker faith & practice*, the book of discipline for Britain Yearly Meeting.

Help with costs

Don't be put off coming to Yearly Meeting because you can't afford it! If you need help with costs then you can ask for help from the Yearly Meeting Bursary Fund.

Swarthmore Lecture by Chris Alton: Saturday May 5th

Chris is a life-long Quaker, artist and activist. Through his lecture 'Changing ourselves, changing the world' Chris will share how he seeks to challenge people and create change through his art and how art can be an act of witness. Chris will address the challenges we face in a changing and increasingly violent and fractured world, while considering how he as an artist and we as Friends (as Quakers refer to each other) might respond creatively, and offer subversive alternatives.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE AREA MEETING QUAKER CAMP 2018
Saturday 4 – Sunday 12 August 2018 - near Charmouth, Dorset

Please email or speak to
Martin Quick (Stroud Meeting)

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY LOCAL MEETING

Membership:

1. Appointments

Dinah Clements - Assistant Clerk, Jo Teakle – DBS verifier, Jacek Wyers – Readings from Advices and Queries

2. Legacy Project Update: Peter Ireland, architect, has been asked to proceed with planning applications for all exterior works.

3. Hubs: The Elders and Oversight hub intend to hold quarterly meetings on the fourth Sunday in March, June, September and November

4. Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees: Friends agreed to provide £60 to support the appeal by Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees for the eleventh family arriving in Cheltenham in March.

NOTES FROM FEBRUARY AREA MEETING

Membership:

1. Deaths

Richard Lacock (Cheltenham)

2. Resignations: Brian Collier (Cheltenham)

News of Meetings:

Nailsworth Meeting have told us that their new children's room is now in use, and that young people in the AM Link Group met there yesterday. Work continues in the Peace Garden at the meeting house.

Stroud Meeting now has an embryo children's group.

Cirencester Meeting held a Christmas Day lunch and a January party. They hosted opening and closing meetings for the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. They hold an Open Forum on the third Sunday of every month.

Painswick Meeting are making a particular effort to get to know one another better. They have held a discussion and social evening, and are planning another. They plan to have shared lunches on 5th Sundays.

Wotton Meeting held a Meeting for Worship during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. A Footpaths Group has started in Wotton.

The worship group at **Stonehouse** continues to meet monthly. Nailsworth Meeting are considering how best to provide for eldership and oversight of this group.

Counting Quakers : our Tabular Statement for 2017

The number of members in the Area Meeting has fallen from 287 at the end of 2016 to 274 at the end of 2017. Over the same period, the number of attenders rose from 202 to 262.

Report on the Quaker Mental Health Forum

Jill Nash has reported on the Quaker Mental Health Forum held in York on 9 December on the theme "Dementia : What is our Witness". Her main impressions from the conference were the sense of shared insight and deep listening to one another; the courage of those who spoke about their own experience of dementia; and the insight offered by the phrase "meeting the person, not the disease". We welcome the emphasis which the Society is now putting on mental health issues, including the current issue of Friends Quarterly which contains five articles on mental health, including dementia. Quaker Life has produced a booklet "Mental Health in our Meetings".

"How doth the Truth Prosper"

Cheltenham Friends have told us about the life of their meeting

AM Website

Our clerk has started to include information about the agendas of Area Meetings on the AM website (www.glosquakers.org). As an experiment, the minutes and papers of this meeting will be placed in a Dropbox folder for Friends to access, instead of being distributed as email attachments.