

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

APRIL 2018

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

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/>

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

A thought from *Advices and Queries* - No.28

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

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

APRIL			
Sunday	1	10.30 11.50	Meeting for Worship Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	5	7-9 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Journalling as Spiritual Practice: Introduction (see below)
Sunday	8	10.30 2pm	Meeting for Worship Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Staunton Village Hall
Thursday	12	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting- Young Adult Friends (see below)
Sunday	15	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Learning: Elders-Preparation for Yearly Meeting (see below)
Thursday	19	7-9 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Journalling as Spiritual Practice: Follow-up
Sunday	22	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Worship Sharing
Thursday	26	6.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Young Adult Friends (see below)
Sunday	29	10.30 Noon	Semi-programmed Meeting for Worship: Theme - Healing (see below) Meeting for Learning : Joseph Fuller - My Work with Young Adult Friends (postponed from March 18th - see below)

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.

Note: There are two Meetings for Learning in April.

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 23rd April at the latest

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

MEETING FOR LEARNING: April 15th @ noon.

Yearly Meeting this May has the theme of revising Quaker Faith and Practice. In our Meeting for Learning we are going to prepare by looking at some questions for reflection provided on the Yearly Meeting website. They are:

- What is my relationship with Quaker Faith and Practice?
- Do I read some parts more than others? Which parts do I find helpful?
- Does it reflect the rich store of experience and wisdom of the Religious Society of Friends and the diversity of our spiritual journeys? Are there any gaps?
- What would worry me about revising our book of discipline? What would excite me about revising it?

Friends are invited to give some consideration to these questions if they can prior to the Meeting for Learning to enable us to explore them in some depth.

These questions can be found at: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents>

Click on "Preparing for Yearly Meeting"

MEETING FOR LEARNING: April 29th @ 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.

5th Sunday - SEMI-PROGRAMMED MEETING FOR WORSHIP - Theme - Healing Sunday 29th 10.30

Friends are invited to speak or bring contributions - ministry, a poem or a reading - on this theme. There is a section in Quaker Faith and Practice on suffering and healing, at 21.59 - 21.73, which Friends may find helpful.

Mid-Week Meetings take place on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month - 6.30pm to 9pm:

April 5th Journalling as a Spiritual Practice.

"Journalling is a way of using writing to explore events, relationships, attitudes, feelings or reflections...to illuminate their meaning for us" (Wall). When considering our faith journey, and often when it is changing, it can be very helpful to get into the way of writing out our experience using a book designated for the purpose, not to be shared with others, but to provide a way for us to express the helpful and sometimes insightful responses we can experience when in worship, and which can often inextricably disappear in the rushing of daily life.

In this evening we will look at ways of keeping a journal, the sort of things we might include, and consider the practicalities.

Friends might like to bring a suitable book, pens/ paper/ or their current journal, if they would like to, not, as mentioned to share the contents in detail, but give insight as to how they use it.

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

APRIL COLLECTION is for Acorns Children's Hospice Trust. This charity provides invaluable respite care and end of life care for life limited children. In addition they give on-going family support for parents, siblings and grandparents. They offer specialised care and support in the heart of England, including Gloucestershire, with hospices at Selly Oak, Walsall and Worcester, and a community team

who offer support at home. Their nearest shop is at 220 High Street, Cheltenham, and would welcome custom and volunteers. Donations can be made online or sent to: Acorns Children Hospice, Drakes Court, 302 Alcester Road, Wythall, Birmingham B47 6JR. Tel: 01564 82 5000. Website: www.acorns.org.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.

Fair Trade Goods Survey : What are your views on fairtrade goods?

Alison Crane is reviewing the monthly stall and feels it would be helpful to know what people think. She would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes thinking about these questions. Please tick or delete all that apply on the survey. (Please see page 5)

NOTES FROM MARCH LOCAL MEETING

1. Grove Street Burial Ground

We would like to arrange for any human remains at Grove Street in Cheltenham to be re-interred in a respectful way at Shortwood Burial Ground near Nailsworth, if possible. We understand the need to inform Historic England and to seek archeological advice. We plan to contact Cheltenham Civic Society to arrange and pay for a suitable plaque to commemorate the Quaker Burial Ground possibly including a reference to a continuing Quaker presence in town. We hope to support the publication of a booklet summarising the research of local historians Neela Mann and Jill Waller.

2. Ponchos from blankets

Pat Dannahy drew our attention to the Cambridge Convoy Refugee Action Group initiative to make ponchos out of blankets.

3. Peace Messenger Report March 2018: Alison Crane

We consider peace in its broadest sense, living "in the virtue of that life and power that takes away the occasion of all wars". We get involved in local and national events and campaigns, from Remembrance Day to the Arms Fair, bearing witness with our presence, writing letters, organising our own events, and generally suggesting alternatives to war and injustice.

We meet perhaps 5 times in a year, usually in Gloucester, and meetings are open to anyone in the Area Meeting. We try to encourage at least one person from each Local Meeting, but currently have no participants from Stroud or Gloucester

We are thinking about 2018 being the centenary of the end of WW1, and wanting local events to be about peace building and looking forward. We each agreed to find out what might be happening locally, and how Quakers might be involved.

We have a long term concern about the demonisation of Muslims and migrants, and as such decided to respond to Area Meeting's call for Local Meetings to consider the Sanctuary Meetings initiative. We realised that even though we may not call ourselves Sanctuary Meetings, individual Friends and local meetings are already engaged in a wide range of activities.

We agreed that as a first step to our meetings being more effective in this area, the Peace Group should propose holding an Area Meeting wide information sharing day or half day at which

- *Meetings and individuals could share and learn from each about how best to support refugees and asylum seekers and lobby for change*
- *Input could possibly be invited from Adele the manager at GARAS and from the relevant support staff at QPSW.*

4. Sanctuary Meeting

We support the initiative to hold an Area Meeting Workshop to decide how to take the concept of Sanctuary Meetings forward. We commit ourselves to becoming a Sanctuary Meeting and using our premises to further this work with Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees (CWR) and GARAS

5. Nigel Smith was thanked for his service as clerk to the Meeting

NOTES FROM MARCH AREA MEETING

1. Membership:

a. Deaths

Marguerite Govier (Nailsworth)

b. Transfer: Therese Windle

c. Change of Meeting : David Crane, from Nailsworth to Stroud

2. News of Meetings:

Nailsworth have lost their membership clerk and have no assistant clerk. They are looking at an event to celebrate UN World Day of Peace on 21 September .

Stroud Meeting clerking will be done on a rota. They are looking for a correspondence clerk.

Gloucester have decided to reinstate their shared lunch on the third Sunday of each month, starting in April.

3. Sanctuary Meetings, Refugees and Asylum Seekers

We are encouraged by the extent to which Friends are already involved. The task is not necessarily for us to create new initiatives, but to link with and support existing work. However, we feel we have more to learn, so as to discern where our efforts are best directed. We welcome the appointment of Tatiana Garavito as Sanctuary Everywhere Programme Co-ordinator in Friends House and hope that there will be an opportunity for her to speak to us. We would also like to learn more about the work of GARAS and perhaps other local organisations as well. Our peace group have suggested a full or half-day information- sharing event; we enthusiastically support this.

4. Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting Report

- Yearly Meeting Gathering : Aug 1-8th 2020
- “Being Friends Together” online resources are now freely available without subscription.
- The possible revision of Quaker, Faith & Practice (QF&P) will be the main matter before Yearly Meeting this year (4 - 7th May).

6. Preparation of a new book of members and attenders

Eliot Walker reported on the new legal requirements for data protection which will come into force at the end of May. He told us that we have to conform to this and that new forms for recording personal details and consents will be required

7. Area Meeting Walk - 12th May

Our clerks have reported that 12 May was the most popular date for the proposed walk, and that they will try to organise inclusive activities as well as the walk itself. We look forward to receiving further details.

FAIR TRADE GOODS SURVEY

What are your views on fairtrade goods?

I am reviewing the monthly stall, so it would be helpful to know what people think. I would be grateful if you could spend a few minutes thinking about these questions. Please tick or delete all that apply. Thank you. Alison.

1. I try to buy fairtrade as part of my normal shopping
2. I try to buy items at the stall:
 - a) to support Global Footsteps
 - b) other (please state)
3. I don't buy fairtrade as a rule because:
 - a) it's expensive
 - b) it's poor quality
 - c) I don't know about fair trade
 - d) other (please state)
4. I don't buy from the stall because:
 - a) I don't bring money to Meeting
 - b) There is never anything I want
 - c) Other (please state)
5. I think the stall is a good idea because
6. The stall isn't very useful because:
 - a) The items are widely available in supermarkets
 - b) Other (please state)
7. Would you be interested in choosing from a wider range of items in a Traidcraft catalogue and collecting them on a Sunday? Yes/No