

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JUNE 2018

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

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

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

Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto: Meeting for Sufferings, December 2017

As Quakers, we have long worked for peace and equality, because of our belief that there is that of God in everyone, everywhere, whoever they are.

Through Quakers' longstanding work welcoming newcomers to our shores, we have seen up close that the government's creation of a 'hostile environment' is increasingly embedding policies of discrimination into the practices of the British state. Quakers in Britain are committed to working with others to change this, creating a culture of compassion and welcoming hospitality that answers that of God in every person.

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

JUNE			
Sunday	3	10.30 11.50	Meeting for Worship Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	7	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Listening Prayer as Spiritual Practice (see below)
Sunday	10	10.30 2pm	Meeting for Worship Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Wotton
Thursday	14	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting- Young Adult Friends (see below)
Sunday	17	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Learning: Cal Anton-Smith and Alison Crane: Cheltenham - Becoming a Sanctuary Meeting (see below)
Thursday	21	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Experiment with Light as Spiritual Practice (see below)
Sunday	24	10.30 noon noon	Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Worship Sharing Eldership and Oversight Hub
Thursday	28	6.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Young Adult Friends (see below)
JULY			
Sunday	1	10.30 11.50	Meeting for Worship Local Meeting for Worship for Business

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.

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 18th June at the latest

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

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

7th June 2018 Listening Prayer as Spiritual Practice

This practice follows the ancient tradition of "Anam Cara" or soul friend, where, in contemplative silence and in pairs, each person is encouraged to speak without interruption on their experience of God in their life, while the other listens prayerfully, before changing places. The session concludes with a period of silence.

This session provides the opportunity for those who have not experienced "Spiritual Direction" before to have a taste of this and see the profound ways in which the Holy Spirit can speak to us in even a very short five minute exercise.

21st June 2018 Experiment with Light as Spiritual Practice

Another opportunity to encounter the Light – do not assume your experience will be the same as last time, even if it is the same meditation. Come prepared to be surprised!

Mid- Week Meeting for Young Adult Friends (18-35ish) 2nd & 4th Thursdays of the month: 6.30-9pm

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: JUNE 17th. Cal Anton-Smith and Alison Crane - Becoming a Sanctuary Meeting

- what does being a "Sanctuary Meeting" mean?
- what are we doing already in Cheltenham to welcome and support refugees and asylum seekers?
- what more can we do as a Meeting to counter-act the "hostile environment" and build a culture of welcome ?
- how can we work with others to change the laws on destitution, detention, deportations and removals ?

Future Meetings for Learning – 2018

We now have a programme for the Meetings for Learning for the rest of this year.

Meetings for Learning take place on the third Sunday of the month at 12 noon.

15 July:

Dorothy Carson and Janet Weyers – ‘Unable, Unwilling’: A Game of Quaker Nominations

A light-hearted game in which you represent the Nominations Committee of Little Snoring. You constitute the entire Meeting but there are still nominated positions and it is your job to fill them. Be ready to have some fun and lots of laughter on this serious topic.

August: No Meeting for Learning

16 September: Jo Teakle - Mysticism in the Poems of Mary Birkett Card

Jo will lead an exploration of some of her ancestor's spiritual poems from the early 18th century – the age of sensibility and Jane Austen. Mary Birkett Card was a Dublin Quaker who wrote poems against the slave trade. Can her other mystical poems speak to Friends today?

21 October: Jo Joy – How did I get here?

Jo will speak about how her spiritual journey has led her to her take on a role involved in the ministry of spiritual direction and to embark on a new career in acupuncture.

18 November: Mike Adcock – The Sound of Silence

As a musician and composer, Mike has long been interested in the importance of silence within music. Attending Quaker meetings, awareness of its wider significance has had a bearing on his musical thinking. In his talk, a week after Remembrance Day, he will consider the cultural, musical and spiritual significance of silence.

16 December: Liz Bettles – Ancient Egypt and me: seeing that of God in everyone - past and present

Liz will speak about how her faith and her work as an archaeologist are interwoven.

Social Event - 11 August 2018 at Cheltenham Meeting House - 2-4 p.m.

This is being planned by Pastoral Friends. There will be afternoon tea and some activities. Please save the date now. More information will be available shortly.

Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Richard Lacock

Jo Teakle is convening a group to prepare this. If any Friend has a contribution they would like to forward to the group, please email Jo.

Spiritual Adventure Day 2018

Elders have invited The Kindlers to facilitate a workshop on Prayer in September or October. More details will follow soon.

Becoming Friends

- Becoming Friends is an innovative learning project from Woodbrooke and Quaker Life which aims to help you find out more about Quakerism and to explore your own spiritual journey with Friends. We have copies of the book available - a supply is kept in the cupboard in the Tea Room.
- The online project is available at: <http://moodle.woodbrooke.org.uk/course/index.php?categoryid=8>. There is also a free taster online.

Care of Souls

- This is a project supported by the Harvard Divinity School and other bodies (the Fetzer Institute, the Nathan Cummings Foundation, On Being). The project report and other materials were shared and explored at Gloucestershire Area Meeting Elders and Overseers on 14 April. Elders in Cheltenham feel they are worthy of further dissemination in our Meeting.
- The report posits that in modern life, with society becoming more fragmented and 'polarised', and many people abandoning traditional religious identities, the need for spirituality and community is stronger than ever. It goes on to define seven spiritual roles that we can perform in relation to others, explaining how we can recognise these roles within ourselves and develop them for the benefit of our communities.
- A hard copy is available for circulation from Jo Teakle.

JUNE COLLECTION is for the charity SIGHT 2020. As Friends know, this is for the work that Margaret Sheldrick's Ophthalmic surgeon son and his wife are doing in Malawi. Some of their projects there are: supporting work at Zomba Central Hospital, training, mentoring, and performing glaucoma and cataract surgery; working with Nguludi Special Needs School, organising football matches, bringing security issues to the government, as albino children are at risk of abduction from kidnappers who pass them on for ritualistic barbaric acts; planning a conference for all the Ophthalmic Clinical Officers, the main work force for eye work in Malawi, to support them in their work and hopefully giving them a greater voice in the running of their respective eye units in the country; - and collecting mouth organs for the children to use.

The website is www.sight2020direct.org The address for donations is: Dr John Lodge, CILFEIGAN NEWYDD, Llnbadoc, Usk, NP15 1PS

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.