

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

JULY 2018

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*A thought from Quaker faith & practice 23.09*

*We are all the poorer for the crushing of one man, since the dimming of the Light anywhere darkens us all.*

*Michael Sorenson 1986*

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

| JULY     |    |               |   |
|----------|----|---------------|---|
| Sunday   | 1  | 10.30<br>Noon | Meeting for Worship<br>Local Meeting (LM)   |
| Thursday | 5  | 6.30 -9 pm    | Mid-Week Meeting - Lectio Divina or Sacred Reading (see below)  |
| Thursday | 5  | 7 pm          | Area Meeting for Worship for Business (AM) @ Painswick  |
| Sunday   | 8  | 10.30         | Meeting for Worship   |
| Thursday | 12 | 6.30-9pm      | Mid-Week Meeting- Young Adult Friends   |
| Sunday   | 15 | 10.30         | Meeting for Worship   |
| Thursday | 19 | 6.30-9 pm     | Mid-Week Meeting - Walking Meditation (see below)   |
| Sunday   | 22 | 10.30<br>noon | Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products<br>Meeting for Learning: Dorothy Carson and Janet Weyers -<br>'Unable, Unwilling': A Game of Quaker Nominations (see below) |
| Thursday | 26 | 6.30-9pm      | Mid-Week Meeting- Young Adult Friends   |
| Sunday   | 29 | 10.30         | Fifth Sunday Semi-programmed Meeting for Worship: Creativity<br>(see below)   |
| AUGUST   |    |               |   |
| Thursday | 2  |               | NO Mid-Week Meeting   |
| Sunday   | 5  | 10.30         | Meeting for Worship   |

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 23 July at the latest

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

## **MEETING FOR LEARNING: JULY 22nd @ noon.**

### **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

## **MID-WEEK MEETINGS take place on the 1st & 3rd Thursdays of the month - 6.30pm to 9pm**

### **July 5th Lectio Divina or Sacred Reading:**

Lectio Divina has been a part of the Christian prayer tradition for centuries and remains an important spiritual practice for many today. It is a totally different form of reading from that which we employ in daily life. We enter into a silent space, and a short passage, either from the Bible or other text/ poem is chosen, and read through a number of times. Once the text has “soaked in”, it is likely that a particular word or phrase may stand out for you. Time is then taken to sit with this word/ phrase, pray over it, perhaps write or explore it either verbally in worship sharing or through writing in a journal.

### **July 19th Walking Meditation:**

“Taking our worship for a Walk” is how Ginny introduces walking meditation. The process involves reading from a short text a couple of times, allowing silence and space to rest between the words, before “taking” one or two words from the text away with you, walking in slow differing directions before returning to stillness, noticing whatever arises during this time. This practice can be done in circles, using a labyrinth, with or without a partner, or with music. On this occasion it is hoped we can walk outside in the garden, weather permitting!

## **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

## **July 29th Fifth Sunday Semi-Programmed Meeting for Worship - Theme: Creativity**

Friends are invited to bring a reading or poem, or to speak, on this theme. The concept of creativity can be taken specifically or widely, including our gifts and talents, our personal relationships and our stewardship of the earth.

### **July Charity Collection: LISTENING POST**

This is a local professional voluntary counselling service, Christian in foundation, which provides counselling for anyone over 18, regardless of financial status, gender, religion, sexual orientation or ethnic origin. They are an organisational member of the British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy and work within their ethical framework. Donations can be sent to Listening Post, Hesters Way Community Resource Centre, Cassin Drive, Cheltenham, GL51 7SU. Tel: 01242 256060. website: [www.listeningpost.org.uk](http://www.listeningpost.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

\*\*\*\*\* SAVE THE DATES \*\*\*\*\*

**11th August - Social Event**

Pastoral Friends are arranging to hold a beetle drive, which should be very entertaining, followed by afternoon tea, from 3-5 pm at Cheltenham Quaker Meeting House.

Please put this in your diaries now, and let a Pastoral Friend know if you wish to attend. We will also put a sheet up on the Meeting House noticeboard for names, and offers of cakes or biscuits would be welcome, though not required - it is not a bring and share.

**15th September - A Kindlers Workshop on the Theme of Prayer**

Elders are arranging this workshop for our spiritual adventure day this year, to be run by the Kindlers. It will take place at Cheltenham Quaker Meeting House and we anticipate the cost will be £10 per person.

The approach will be exploratory and is intended to give Friends a safe place to ask questions about prayer.

- What does prayer mean for us?
- How to interpret it?
- What forms might it take?

More details and timings will follow soon, but please save the date in your diaries now and let an Elder know if you wish to book a place.

**22nd September Area Meeting for Learning: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Sanctuary Meetings**

10am to 4pm @ Gloucester Meeting House

Speakers

- Adele Owen, Gloucestershire Action for Refugee and Asylum Seekers (GARAS)
- Tatiana Garavito, *Sanctuary Meeting* Coordinator

Lunch, discussion and workshops

More information and publicity to follow.

Liz Whiteside, Convenor, Area Meeting Peace group

**NOTES FROM JUNE LOCAL MEETING:**

**Membership:**

**Appointment of book-keeper**

Kathleen Dallison is to be engaged as a self-employed book-keeper initially for a trial period of 3 months under the supervision of Tim Howarth as Treasurer.

**Nominations Committee**

Dorothy Carson as Correspondence Clerk.

Tim Howarth as Treasurer

Alison Crane as second link person (with Cal Anton Smith) for Sanctuary Meeting Liaison.

Jennifer Mundy for the Children's Committee.

The premises committee and legacy project team have agreed to merge until the meeting house improvements are complete.

**Change of signatories on bank accounts:**

It was agreed that Ian Brighton should be removed as a signatory on all the meeting's bank accounts and that Tim Howarth should be added.

**Plaque for former Quaker burial ground:**

Jo Teakle gave an update on her meeting with James Hodsdon. The following draft wording for the plaque is acceptable to the meeting: 'Quaker Burial Ground in use from 1683 - c.1870. Among the Friends (Quakers) interred here were members of the Mason and Skillicorne families who were instrumental in the foundation of Cheltenham as a spa from 1716.'

**Legacy Projects:**

On 27th May the architect's visualisations were presented to Meeting and the team answered questions on the proposals. The architect Peter Ireland has been instructed to proceed to tender.

The UKPC parking signs are now in position. Parking permits will be organised.

**Peace Messenger Report:**

Alison Crane presented the Peace Messenger Report in which she highlighted the Quaker *Sanctuary Everywhere* programme.

*“Quakers nationally are encouraging Local and Area Meetings to welcome refugees and asylum seekers and sign up to be part of the sanctuary movement, creating a culture of compassion and welcoming hospitality to counter the “hostile environment” they often face.*

#### **Quaker Week: 29 September - 7 October 2018**

- The Quaker Week “recipe pack” has many ideas for marking Quaker Week.
- Suggestions for how we mark Quaker Week and for updating our welcome leaflet were invited.
- Quaker Week posters or a banner could be displayed on our outside walls as well as inside the building.
- Communications Hub to look at the Quaker Week “recipe pack” and bring ideas back to our next LM.
- Elders will invite Pastoral Friends and others to take part in a review of the welcome leaflet.

#### **NOTES FROM JUNE AREA MEETING:**

##### **Membership matters:**

##### **Death**

Cyril Govier of Nailsworth meeting died on 19 April 2018, aged 89. His funeral took place on 14 May.

##### **Transfer in**

The memberships of John and Moira Jackman have been transferred to us from Mid- Thames AM.

##### **Nominations:**

Sue Barrance (Stroud) to attend the QAAD conference on 13 to 15 July.

Resignations - from Patsy Dickenson (Stroud) and Margaret Cooper (Cheltenham) as overseers/Pastoral Friends; and from Michele Nicholls (Gloucester) and Alwyn Burton (Cheltenham) as elders. Alwyn Burton to serve as an overseer/Pastoral Friend for the rest of the triennium.

##### **Yearly Meeting: London, 4 to 7 May 2018**

1. The important decision to put in hand a revision of Quaker Faith and Practice was taken.
2. Friends who attended spoke about the great diversity of events and activities at Yearly Meeting, including Sanctuary Everywhere, the Quaker Housing Trust and Quakers in Criminal Justice
3. Friends spoke about the careful way in which BYM has set about the process of change.
4. Many who came to Yearly Meeting doubtful about the need for a revision of QFP left convinced that the time is now right.
5. It is intended that the QFP sections on Church Government should be revised first; while work on the rest of QFP, on our witness, experience and leadings, will begin rather later.
6. **A Revision Committee:** Meeting for Sufferings has been asked to draw up terms of reference for, and appoint Friends to serve on a Revision Committee.
  - *They have been asked to ensure that the committee is diverse in its composition, and includes both younger and older Friends.*
  - *There is a form on the YM website (<https://forms.quaker.org.uk/interest-in-the-book-of-discipline-revision/>) which Friends are invited to complete if they would like to contribute to the work on revision of QFP.*

##### **Quaker Life:**

Amelia Schafer-Rutherford has reported on the meetings of the Quaker Life Representative Council in autumn 2017 and spring this year. The theme of both meetings was Shape Shifting.

##### **News of Meetings:**

**Painswick:** held a shared lunch and activity on the theme Holding Each Other in the Light. In April, there was a themed meeting on the Quaker Business Method. The meeting has agreed a maintenance plan for the burial ground.

**Nailsworth:** Oliver Muller has been appointed assistant clerk. Young people in the meeting plan to hold an event for 15 to 18 year olds, with a peace theme, in October. The meeting will formally open the Beech Hut in July.

**Forest:** held two meetings for learning in the last few months, on the themes of Meeting for Worship and Community, respectively. On Community, the meeting feels that it has quite a long way to go!

**Stroud:** reported continuing problems about access to the library.

##### **Financial report from Trustees:**

A deficit for 2018 is projected which will have to be met from reserves.

- Trustees will look at how to get our finances onto a more stable basis, rather than drawing down on reserves.
- Trustees recognised a need to make Friends more aware of the AM’s financial problems.
- Friends are encouraged to look again at how much they give to their local and area meetings.
- Trustees will send questions for Local Meeting to consider over the summer.
- Trustees will prepare a forward-looking paper for AM.

### **Domestic Violence Group**

The Domestic Violence Group have approached Journeymen Theatre about commissioning a play on domestic violence, which could then be performed throughout the country to raise awareness and money for women's refuges.

### **Save the Date: Meeting for Learning: Refugees, Asylum Seekers and Sanctuary Meeting - Saturday 22 September**

Friends are encouraged to make plans to attend this important meeting.

- Speakers: Adele Owen, GARAS and Tatiana Garavito *Sanctuary Meeting* co-ordinator
- Lunch: It has been agreed that AM funds to be made available to enable us to pay a group of Syrian women refugees to cook lunch for the event. Participants will be asked for contributions for the lunch so that AM can be reimbursed.

### **Area Meeting Walk**

Fourteen Friends took part in the walk on 12 May. Ideas for future walks and other activities will be explored by clerks.

### **Notices**

Mary Brown is keen to find someone to take over from her as secretary of Positive Justice Gloucestershire (PJJG).