

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

AUGUST 2018

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

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

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

A thought from Quaker faith and practice - 2.34

Friends, meet together and know one another in that which is eternal, which was before the world was.

George Fox, 1657

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

AUGUST			
Sunday	5	10.30	Meeting for Worship
Saturday	11	3-5pm	Social Event - Beetle Drive and Tea party (see below)
Sunday	12	10.30	Meeting for Worship
Sunday	19	10.30	Meeting for Worship
Sunday	26	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Worship Sharing
SEPTEMBER			
Sunday	2	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.

Note: There are no Mid-Week Meetings in August

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 21 August at the latest

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

***** EVENTS *****

Saturday August 11th: Social Event:

Pastoral Friends are holding a beetle drive this year, which is something we don't think we have ever done before. We hope it will be great fun. The game will be followed by afternoon tea.

- Please just add your name to the list on the noticeboard if you wish to come, or let a Pastoral Friends know you'd like to attend.
- Offers of cakes or biscuits are welcome, though not required. It is not a bring and share.

We look forward to seeing as many of you as possible there.

Jo Teakle, for Pastoral Friends

Saturday 15 September: Spiritual Adventure Day

Kindlers workshop on Prayer: an activity based, exploratory event.

Kindlers ask us to let them know our experience of prayer, and how it would be helpful to explore the topic.

Please contact Judy Roles with comments and suggestions

10.00 coffee

10.30 start

Bring a packed lunch

4.30 close followed by afternoon tea, please bring something to share.

Drinks will be provided

Cost £10 each. If the cost might cause difficulties, people are encouraged to speak to an Elder.

Saturday 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

Mid-Week Meetings

No scheduled meetings for August.

Mid-Week Meeting for Young Adult Friends

- No meetings in August.
- Next meeting - Thursday 13th September

Many thanks for your continued support and please keep spreading the word to anyone you know between 18-35ish who you think might be interested. Joseph Fuller.

SAVE THE DATE - Quaker Week 29th September - 7th October

See below in Local Meeting notes

NOTES FROM JULY LOCAL MEETING

Testimony to the grace of God in the lives of Brian and Kathleen Robson: The testimony was prepared by Alwyn Burton, Nigel Smith, Philip Paull, Andrew Turrall and Colin Gerard. The testimony reflected Brian and Kathleen's Quaker lives and we were reminded of their happiest times.

Book-keeper and bank signatories: Bookkeeper Kathleen Dallison has been appointed as an additional bank account signatory.

Lettings Report: Rowland Carson reported that most of the organisations hiring rooms at the Meeting House have been contacted, invoices issued and monies collected. Rowland is thanked for his work.

Legacy Project: More information is required from the tenders that were submitted as they exceed the legacy budget.

Nominations: Joseph Fuller is to serve as an Elder and Rowland Carson as assistant treasurer until the end of the triennium 31 December 2020.

Peace Messenger Report: Alison Crane read the report about the successful Refugee Week events organised by Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees and the upcoming Meeting for Learning on Sanctuary Meetings organised by the Peace Group for September 22nd.

Outreach and Quaker Week: Jo Teakle, Cal Anton-Smith and Ellie Fuller propose an event combining the midweek meetings (both younger and any age Friends) with an invitation to all groups who use the Meeting House to join us on Thursday 4th October.

Secondly, an open air Meeting for Worship in Pittville Park on a Sunday in Quaker Week, possibly on the bandstand. It was agreed to advertise events in the press and social media.

Other ideas suggested were to engage with University students, and to have a stand in town on a Saturday.

NOTES FROM JULY AREA MEETING

Membership matters:

Death Nina Curtis (Cheltenham) died on 19 June 2018. She was 93 years old. A memorial meeting was to be held at Cheltenham Meeting House at 11 am on Monday 16 July.

Transfer of Membership

Anne Silber (formerly of Stroud meeting) to Bristol Area Meeting.

Nominations:

Nailsworth Meeting - Ralph Gale to serve as an overseer. Cheltenham Meeting - Joseph Fuller to serve as an elder.

News of Meetings:

Painswick meeting reported that one of their members had recently spoken at Sheepscombe church about Quakerism. The meeting holds Frances Paterson in the Light in her ill health.

Nailsworth meeting reported that Oliver Muller is now the assistant clerk of the meeting. Mario van Boeschoten had moved into care. They will formally open the new Beech Hut after meeting next Sunday.

Stroud meeting has held a discussion on the issues raised by the film "I Daniel Blake". They have distributed cards for the Ride for Equality and the Common Good, copies of which are in the packs for meetings.

AM Finances:

- Val Kirby, clerk to Trustees, presented a paper on the future finances of our Area Meeting.
- The budget for 2018 projects a deficit of nearly £8,000, adding to a cumulative deficit of nearly £20,000 over the period 2010 to 2017.
- On present policies, it is planned to avoid increasing the cumulative deficit further.
- The paper offers the opportunity to look at radical possibilities. A number of questions are raised which all meetings are asked to consider and respond to Val Kirby by mid-October.
- Should we make radical changes in our approach to property?
- Should we improve our financial management and reporting practices?
- A shorter version of the paper on future finances will be produced and circulated to everyone in the Area Meeting, so that all are well-informed and able to help the discernment of what we should do.

Trustees' Annual Report for 2017

Val Kirby presented the Trustees' annual report for 2017 which set out how the Trustees have sought to discharge their responsibilities for money and property, for employment of our wardens, and for our compliance with legal and other requirements on safeguarding and data protection. It outlined some of the areas of our Quaker work in 2017, particularly our concern for the criminal justice system.

Domestic Violence Group Meeting - June 14th

Eight copies of the report are available for each Local Meeting. We are asked to make as many Friends as possible aware of this concern, especially the section entitled "What can we do help?"

Proposed Area Meeting Dates 2019

There is a suggested calendar for meetings in 2019, including a proposal for a meeting to specifically include families and young people.

Book of Members and Attenders

The new book is ready for distribution. There is a consent form which all meetings should now use and complete. Consent forms are available in the Area Meeting Dropbox, in the folder 'Data Protection'.

Next Meeting at Nailsworth on Thursday 6 September at 7 pm.