

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

SEPTEMBER 2018

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

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

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

## *A thought from Advices & Queries No.3*

*“... All of us need to find a way into silence which allows us to deepen our awareness of the divine and find the inward source of our strength...”*

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

| SEPTEMBER |    |                       |   |
|-----------|----|-----------------------|---|
| Sunday    | 2  | 10.30<br>Noon         | Meeting for Worship<br>Local Meeting (LM)   |
| Thursday  | 6  | 6.30-9 pm             | Mid-Week Meeting: Poetry Evening (see below)  |
| Thursday  | 6  | 7 pm                  | Area Meeting for Worship for Business (AM) at Nailsworth  |
| Sunday    | 9  | 10.30                 | Meeting for Worship   |
| Thursday  | 13 | 7-9pm                 | Mid-Week Meeting: Young Adult Friends   |
| Saturday  | 15 | 10-5                  | Kindler's Workshop: Theme - Prayer (see below)  |
| Sunday    | 16 | 10.30<br>Noon         | Meeting for Worship<br>Banner and Bunting Workshop for Quaker Week (see below)                  |
| Thursday  | 20 | 6.30-9 pm             | Mid-Week Meeting: Experiment with Light (see below)   |
| Saturday  | 22 | 10-4                  | Area Meeting for Learning at Gloucester: Sanctuary Everywhere (see below)                       |
| Sunday    | 23 | 10.30<br>noon<br>noon | Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products<br>Eldership & Oversight Hub<br>Worship Sharing |
| Thursday  | 27 | 7-9pm                 | Mid-Week Meeting: Young Adult Friends   |
| Saturday  | 29 |                       | QUAKER WEEK begins  |
| Sunday    | 30 | 10.30<br>10.30        | Meeting for Worship<br>Meeting for Worship at Pitville Park (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.

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 24th September at the latest

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

### **Sept 16th**

Jo Teakle's talk about the mystical elements in the poetry of her Quaker ancestor Mary Birkett Card is being postponed to January. The September session will be used to prepare the banner and bunting for Quaker week.

#### **Banner and Bunting Workshop for Quaker Week:**

- Material is being collected to create a banner and bunting.
- Ellie Hargreaves is doing a sterling job planning and starting these. We can all join in to help make them on 16th September.
- No artistic skill is required - it will only involve straightforward activities like sticking on letters or colouring in.
- The idea is that we can all participate and feel part of the preparation for Quaker week, while having a good natter as well!

So please join us - the more the merrier. For more information contact Jo Teakle.

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

### **Sept 6th Poetry Evening**

Poems really come to life when spoken aloud. Many Friends have favourite poems, and this evening is the perfect opportunity to share our favourite. It was a Quaker who introduced me to R.S. Thomas, and I think after how many years of wrestling with the question, I might finally be beginning to see how the "meaning" might "lie in the waiting..."! Please come and bring your favourite poem with you.

### **Sept 20th Experiment with Light**

This is the practice which formed the basis of setting up our Mid- Week Meetings, as Cheltenham Meeting has a special place in the history of establishing Light groups. It seems there are now 4 regular Light Groups connected with the Meeting, which receive new members from time to time. However these one- off evenings are a way to introduce new-comers to the practice, and support those wishing to explore/ consider their experience in more depth. One previous Experiment had participants recalling and discussing their experience for several weeks afterwards! It is possible to do the Experiment on a personal basis, on the Meeting, or on the world. Maybe we will decide on the night what seems appropriate.

### **Mid-Week Meeting for Young Adult Friends (18-35ish) 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays of the month - 7- 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

### **SEPTEMBER Charity Collection: THE BERESFORD TRUST**

THE BERESFORD TRUST runs the STROUD WOMEN'S REFUGE. This independent charity has provided women's refuge in Stroud for around 35 years and in that time has supported hundreds of women and children in re-building their shattered lives. We provide two refuges which offer support, outreach and children's services.

Children who move into the refuge have often experienced or witnessed abuse and would be at risk of abuse if they returned. They have often lost their friends, family members, pets and belongings - everything that is important to them. To see more, visit the website [www.stroud womensrefuge.org](http://www.stroud womensrefuge.org).

Donations can be made via the website, by text, or by post to Stroud Beresford Limited, PO Box 35, Stroud, Gloucestershire, GL5 1YL, tel: 01453 764385

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

\*\*\*\*\* **EVENTS** \*\*\*\*\*

**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 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?

To book either contact Judith Roles or sign up at the Meeting House

**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

Please book your place with Liz Whiteside, Convenor, Area Meeting Peace group

[liz.whiteside@phonecoop.coop](mailto:liz.whiteside@phonecoop.coop)

**29 Sept - 7 Oct: QUAKER WEEK "Room at the Table for More"**

The theme for Quaker Week this year is *Room at the Table for More*. Quaker week is about celebrating Quakerism and reaching out to the community. With this in mind, we are going to hold two events in Cheltenham for Quaker Week.

**Sunday 30th September: Outdoor Quaker Meeting for Worship at Pittville Park**

In addition to the Meeting for Worship (MfW) at the Meeting House, an outdoor MfW will be held at Pittville Park at 10.30 am for any Friend who wishes to take part.

- There will be leaflets and information to distribute to passers by, an elder present and other Friends available to explain what we are doing when asked, and invite people to sit and worship with us if they wish.
- Friends may wish to park near Pittville Park or meet at the Meeting House at 10.00 am and walk down together.
- Exact location and timings to follow.

**Thursday 4th October: Community Celebration FMH at 6.30 pm**

On Thursday 4 October, we are going to hold a Community Celebration at the Meeting House at 6.30p.m. This would usually be the time for our Thursday Mid-week Meeting.

- We hope that attenders from both our Thursday Mid-Week Meetings, older and younger friends, will be able to come and that other Friends in the Meeting will be able to join us.
- Members of the groups that hire rooms in our Meeting House are being invited, and we will advertise the event more widely in local media.
- We will be offering refreshments - tea/coffee, tasty snacks and Syrian baclava - and a chance to chat and ask questions about Quakerism.