

# CHELTENHAM QUAKER

October 2018

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

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

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

A thought from QUAKER WEEK - ROOM AT THE TABLE FOR MORE

*As Quakers we offer a table already rich with good things, but we recognise that it is incomplete. What's missing from the table? How can we let people know that there's a space for them? How might we show people that their unique perspectives enhance that space?*

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

OCTOBER			
Thursday	4	6.30 pm	Quaker Week: Community Celebration (see below)
Sunday	7	10.30 10.30 Noon	Meeting for Worship Quaker Week: Outdoor Meeting for Worship (see below) Local Meeting for Worship for Business
Thursday	11	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting- Young Adult Friends (see below)
Sunday	14	10.30 2pm	Meeting for Worship Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Gloucester
Thursday	18	7-9 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Holding in the Light and "Living the Change" meal (see below)
Sunday	21	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Meeting for Learning: Jo Joy - How did I get here? (see below)
Thursday	25	6.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Young Adult Friends (see below)
Sunday	28	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship Worship sharing

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 22nd October at the latest

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

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

**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.

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

**Please come along to this community celebration**

On Thursday 4 October, we are going to hold a Community Celebration at the Meeting House at 6.30p.m.

- Members of the groups that hire rooms in our Meeting House, our immediate neighbours, the caretaker, treasurer, gas engineer, architect, builder and others have been invited.
- It has also been advertised on social media and in the Gloucestershire Echo
- Several invitations have been accepted. We expect a good number of people to join us.
- A taster Meeting for Worship lasting 15 minutes will be offered, supported by 2/3 Friends
- Games will be available to play in the meeting room
- Fair Trade products for sale
- Refreshments - tea/coffee, homemade cakes and Syrian baclava
- Display of FMH building plans
- Come and see the wonderful “Banner and Bunting” Cheltenham Friends helped to create.

We do hope you will be able to come and join us.

**We would welcome offers of help with serving tea/coffee and cake and clearing up.**

**Please contact Jo Teakle**

**Sunday 7th October: Outdoor Quaker Meeting for Worship near the Central Cross Cafe, Pittville Park @ 10.30am**

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.

- Friends may wish to park near Pittville Park or
- Meet at the Meeting House at 10.00 am and walk down together.
- Meeting place: Near the Central Cross Cafe (Central Cross Drive).
- Please bring a (camping) chair to sit on.
- There will be an information table to distribute leaflets 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.

WEATHER: if the weather is inclement, it will be cancelled via News of Friends email by 9 am

**MEETING FOR LEARNING: October 21st - noon**

**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.

**MID-WEEK MEETINGS** take place on the **1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month - 6.30pm to 9pm**  
**October 4th Quaker Week - Community Celebration (see above)**  
**October 18<sup>th</sup> Holding in the Light and “Living the Change” meal**

This will be a celebratory meal as we take part in the global week of Living the Change with other faith communities around the world. We will be holding in the Light this interfaith movement for changes towards sustainable living. We will also hold in the light the earth itself and celebrate what it offers us at harvest time, by bringing contributions based on locally produced, organic or plant-based food. Holding each other in the Light as we reflect on what we choose to eat, and its impact on the earth, perhaps we can also support each other in sustainable living as we commit to making some change in our own lives.

As we expect the work on the Meeting Room to have started, we can spend most of the evening round the table, sharing food and celebrating our stories of change to allow a flourishing world for all. Alison is taking part in an online sustainable leadership programme, run by "Living the Change" and supported by British Quakers. <https://livingthechange.net/leadership> Participants are expected to organise a celebratory event for their faith community in October as part of the programme. Please come along, enjoy the food, find out more, and be part of living the change. We will share vegan recipes on New of Friends nearer the time.

### **Mid- Week Meeting for Young Adult Friends (18-35ish) 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 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 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays 7-9pm each month, at Cheltenham Meeting House, Warwick Place GL52 2NP

### **OCTOBER COLLECTION: Quaker Housing Trust**

This charity is a channel through which social housing projects can get advice, support, loans or grants that would be difficult to find elsewhere, and the channel through which Friends can express practical social witness through housing. But most of all it exists to support the creation of homes for people of any age, when they are vulnerable at points of transition in their lives. Without a home it is difficult to realize that of God in oneself. QHT receives no financial support from BYM.

More information can be found on the website [www.qht.org.uk](http://www.qht.org.uk). Donations can be sent to Quaker Housing Trust, Friends House, 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ. Tel: 020 7663 1036. Email: [involveme@qht.org.uk](mailto:involveme@qht.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.

### **NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER LOCAL MEETING**

**Nominations:** Janet Weyers wishes to stand down from Nominations Committee. She was thanked for her service. New members for Nominations are sought.

**Quaker Week:** the events planned for 30<sup>th</sup> September 2018 (rescheduled to Oct 7<sup>th</sup>) - Outdoor Meeting for Worship at Pittville Park; and 4<sup>th</sup> October 2018: Community Celebration at the Meeting House were noted. A banner and bunting workshop is to be held instead of Meeting for Learning.

**Legacy Project:** Alison Crane presented a report of the current position, a copy of which is annexed to LM Minutes. The budget figure of £41,069 was approved. The shortfall in funds to cover the costs of phases 2 and 3 was considered by seeking grant aid, funds from AM, donations from local Friends and at a national level. An explanatory leaflet will be prepared. Alison was thanked for her report

**Lettings and Treasurer:** Rowland Carson reported that the new bookkeeper Kathleen Dallison had needed to undertake more initial work than had been expected, and the treasurers had been authorised to make such additional payments as were considered reasonable. The draft Lettings Policy and Terms and Conditions of Room Hire including the proposed Room Hire Charges will be considered at the next business meeting. Rowland Carson and Alison Crane and the other members of the committee were thanked.

**Bank accounts** – Cheltenham Quaker Meeting holds two accounts each with the following banks: Santander, Lloyds, and Triodos. It was agreed that the banks will be requested to remove the following signatories: June Drummond, William Rowland, Michael Lang, Ruth Brinkman, Philip Paull, Janet Weyers and Ian Brighton

**Peace Messenger** – Alison Crane outlined the plans for the Sanctuary Meeting Workshop on Sept 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Quaker Finances** – Friends expressed a variety of initial views regarding the 6 questions raised by AM Trustees. The issues are wide-ranging, and raised fundamental questions about our purpose as Quakers, our responsibilities and our resources. It was agreed to reflect further and to bring the issue back to the business meeting in October.

## NOTES FROM SEPTEMBER AREA MEETING

### Membership Matters

**Deaths:** Ann Dorman (Painswick) died on on 20 July. She was 79. Frances Paterson (Painswick) died on 27 July. She was 69. Margaret Miles (Nailsworth) died on on 8 August. She was 97.

**Resignation:** Mark Anton-Smith (Cheltenham).

**Termination:** Allen Foster (Cheltenham)

**Contact** has been re-established with Brian Gorst and Andrew Holding.

**Membership:** Denise Jones (Nailsworth)

**Application for Membership:** Oliver Muller (Nailsworth)

### Nominations

Elyn Mitchell (Forest) as checker of the tabular statement

Sara Keene (Gloucester) and Joseph Fuller (Cheltenham) to represent the AM at the Sustainability Gathering at Swanwick, 19 to 21 October

The following Friends resigned from their appointments :

Sue Saxty (Gloucester) as an overseer.

Eliot Walker (Nailsworth) as compiler of the Book of Members and Attenders and Q-list link for the Area Meeting.

Julia Price (Gloucester) as a member of the media team.

Friends were thanked for their service

### Gloucestershire Area Meeting Quaker Camp

Isaac and Joseph Thompson-Gibbs and Jacob Page reported that there were 38 campers altogether – 25 adults, and 13 children and young people. The opportunity to renew old friendships and make new ones was highlighted. A minute was submitted to review the camp arrangements so that it can continue to run smoothly and safely.

### News of Meetings

**Gloucester** meeting opened their meeting house on 15/16 September for Heritage Open Day.

**Nailsworth** opened The Beech Hut on 8 July; and on 5 August held their annual meeting for worship at Shortwood burial ground.

**Wotton** meeting held their annual retreat day on 15 September.

**Cirencester** Friends have organised a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event on 20 October entitled “Jesus – a Quaker Approach” from 10 am to 4.30 pm at the meeting house. All Friends are welcome. At the end of September, their warden Wendy is leaving after 10 years of service.

**Painswick** held a shared lunch in July, and were led in a session of holding one another in the Light. As part of Quaker week, the meeting is hosting a talk by Pammy Mitchell on the work of GARAS on 4 October at 7 pm. The meeting house will be open on an ad hoc basis for people who come to visit the garden.

**Cheltenham** A Kindlers workshop on Prayer was held on 15th September, and a Banner and Bunting Workshop in preparation for Quaker Week, took place on Sept 16th. They will hold an outdoor meeting for worship in Pittville Park as part of Quaker week as well as a Community Celebration on October 4th. Refurbishment work on the meeting house will start shortly.

**Stroud** continues to meet in the library, although they are conscious of the problems of the venue. The meeting plan to hold shared lunches on fifth Sundays.

### Report on Conference of Quaker Action on Alcohol and Drugs (QAAD) 13 to 15 July

Sue Barrance was particularly impressed by the use of the 'Open Space' method which she felt had given increased energy and focus to the Conference and enabled maximum use of the interests, expertise and experience of the participants. She also felt the significance of sharing direct experiences amongst equals and hopes to take this into her work as a Quaker Prison Chaplain.

### Report of the AM Criminal Justice Group

Wendy Gerard reported that the group has facilitated Quaker con- tact with three ex-offenders.

The group intends to review its terms of reference, particularly to support Positive Justice Gloucestershire.

### Safeguarding

Two training sessions on safeguarding were held over the summer. Safeguarding will be considered at the next meeting.

### Area Meeting Finances

A reminder - the short papers on the financial position of the AM and of our local meetings have been circulated for consideration.

### Area Meeting Walk

An Area Meeting walk near Painswick is arranged - Saturday 10 November. Further details to follow.