

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

November 2018

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

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

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

A thought from Advices & Queries No.34

Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

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

NOVEMBER			
Thursday	1	6.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - ISLANDS (see below)
Saturday	3	Noon	WHITE POPPIES at Boots Corner (see below)
Sunday	4	10.30	Meeting for Worship
Thursday	8	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting- Young Adult Friends (see below)
Saturday	10	10.00	AUTUMN WALK from Painswick Meeting (see below)
Sunday	11	10.30 4.30-6.00	Meeting for Worship REMEMBERANCE & PEACE - a discussion led by Jane Mace at Nailsworth (see below)
Thursday	15	7-9 pm 7.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - HEALING (see below) Domestic Violence Group at Nailsworth (see AM notes)
Sunday	18	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship Meeting for Learning: Mike Adcock - THE SOUND OF SILENCE (see below)
Thursday	22	6.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Young Adult Friends (see below)
Sunday	25	10.30 10.30 noon	SOCK SUNDAY at Gloucester (see below) Meeting for Worship/Sale of Fair Trade Products Worship sharing
DECEMBER			
Sunday	2	10.30 Noon	Meeting for Worship 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 19th November at the latest

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

***** **EVENTS** *****

Sat 3rd Nov: WHITE POPPIES at 12pm - Boots Corner

Please come along and join Cheltenham Peace Group to give out white poppies to the public on Saturday 3rd November 12-2pm.

Meet at Boots Corner in Cheltenham, 12pm.

- "White poppies recall all victims of all wars, including victims of wars that are still being fought. This includes people of all nationalities. It includes both civilians and members of armed forces. Today, over 90% of people killed in warfare are civilians."
- "There are three elements to the meaning of white poppies: they represent remembrance for all victims of war, a commitment to peace and a challenge to attempts to glamorise or celebrate war."
- Below is a link for the Peace Pledge Union, where you can read about the meaning behind the white poppy and the work the Peace Pledge Union do.

<https://ppu.org.uk/remembrance-white-poppies>

10th Nov: AUTUMN WALK

An Autumn Walk has been organised instead of AM on Saturday 10 November.

- We will meet at **Painswick Friends Meeting House** at 10 for 10.30 am.
- Painswick Friends hope to be able to offer us cake and cups of tea to see us on our way!
- We will walk to Painswick Beacon, to enjoy the view over Gloucester and the Severn Valley. The walking is straightforward, though it may be muddy if there has been recent rain. There is a short steep section up to the beacon.
- We should be back at the Meeting House at 12.30 pm.
- Bring a packed lunch.
- After lunch, those who wish can take the short walk to visit the old Quaker Burial Ground in the valley below Painswick.
- Friends who want to join us only for lunch (at about 12.30 pm) will of course be very welcome.
- There is no need to pre-register. However, Painswick meeting would find it helpful to have an idea of likely numbers, so if you intend to come, please could you send a brief email to Peter Carter - cpetercarter@googlemail.com.

11th Nov: Remembrance and Peace - a discussion. Nailsworth Meeting House, 4.30- 6.00pm

Jane Mace (Nailsworth) is hosting a discussion on the theme of remembrance and peace, based on her research into conscientious objection.* The session will offer an introduction to:

- the context of conscription in World War I and
- experiences of claiming exemption from military service then and now

All welcome

**(as a Quaker Peace and Social Witness speaker in 2016)*

18th Nov: MEETING FOR LEARNING: 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.

25th Nov: Sock Sunday at Gloucester Meeting House 10.30

All Families and Friends in the Area Meeting are welcome at 10.30 All Age Worship.

- The theme will be " That of God in Everyone " and will reflect on difficulties faced by those who are homeless.
- There will be a separate meeting for younger children, who will bring their contributions to the last 15 minutes of worship.
- After coffee everyone is invited to help pack socks for people who have no homes.
- Everyone is welcome to stay for shared lunch.

For more information contact liz.whiteside@phonecoop.coop

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

1st Nov: ISLANDS led by Joseph Fuller.

- An activity involving pen and paper
- The more people there the better
- Usual timings of 6.30pm-7.30 pm shared meal, 7.30pm-8.30pm led activity, 8.30pm-9.00pm Meeting for Worship.

Please speak to Joseph or Jo Joy (01452 855873) for further information if required.

15th Nov: HEALING

- We have many Friends in our Meeting and social groups who are facing illness, disability, and the daily challenges of ageing.
- We are blessed to have a number of Friends in the Meeting who are familiar with Friends' Healing ministry.
- This is an opportunity to come and offer and receive healing, be it on a physical, emotional or spiritual level, as all of these aspects of our life can benefit as our spiritual journey moves us towards wholeness.

MID-WEEK MEETING for Young Adult Friends (18-35ish) 2nd and 4th 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 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7-9pm each month, at Cheltenham Meeting House, Warwick Place GL52 2NP

NOVEMBER Charity Collection: HAMPER SCAMPER.

This project is run by County Community Projects. Hamper Scamper is CCP's Christmas Giving Scheme, designed to spread a little cheer to some of the most disadvantaged children, young people, families and vulnerable adults at Christmas.

- Donations can be given through the website www.ccp.org.uk or sent to 301 High Street, Cheltenham, GL50 3HW. Telephone: 0300 365 8999
- If you would like to contribute items towards the hampers, a list of suitable foods are on the website or you can volunteer for sorting, wrapping and packing. Telephone beforehand for where to go.

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 OCTOBER LOCAL MEETING

Quaker Week: Jo Teakle reported on the Community event and open air Meeting for Worship held in Pittville Park. It was felt that both events were worthwhile outreach. Ellie Fuller was thanked for preparing the wonderful banners and bunting.

Sanctuary Meeting Workshop Sept 22nd: Alison Crane reported that the 5 members who attended recommend the following actions: a) to arrange a meeting with Alex Chalk MP to discuss relevant issues; b) to offer a Meeting for Learning on power and privilege; and c) to support Cal Anton-Smith in attending the Sanctuary Meetings Skillshare at Grasmere in November 2018. The group were thanked for their initiative.

Lettings Policy and terms: The following revision to para 3, proposed by Alison Crane was approved.

3. In particular we are a Sanctuary Meeting and wish to encourage a culture of welcome, and the use of the Meeting House by groups working for racial justice. To come into this category the group must have stated aims or a constitution which makes clear that their primary work is opposing racism. We will not normally make a charge for these groups, up to an agreed limit based on their usual use of the Meeting House. We ask that any public events at the Meeting House organised by such groups include a collection for Meeting House expenses.

Nominations: It was agreed to follow the practice of another LM in Gloucestershire, and to explore the appointment of one Elder, one Pastoral friend, and one member of the clerks' team to join Dorothy Carson in forming a Nominations Committee.

NOTES FROM OCTOBER AREA MEETING

Membership Matters

Membership: Oliver Mueller (Nailsworth), Veronika Kohler (Gloucester)

Nominations: Jean Kent (Gloucester) Elder, Alison Crane (Cheltenham) Area Meeting media group

Testimony to the Grace of God in the Life of Bunty Biggs has been sent to Yearly Meeting.

“How doth the Truth Prosper?”

Friends from Forest of Dean reported on the life of their meeting. Forest meeting does not have its own meeting house, and its membership is scattered over a wide area. They have no suitable space for a children’s meeting. They commented that a special effort is therefore needed to build a caring community of Friends who know each other well. Individual Friends have undertaken a wide variety of actions and activities under the leadings of the Spirit.

News of Meetings:

Gloucester have welcomed a new family as tenants in the lodge. They have plans to sort out their library.

Wotton arranged a display in the Ark coffee shop for Quaker Week, and organised a circle dance evening. They held their annual retreat day in September.

Cirencester have a new warden.

Painswick have relocated their library to the downstairs room. They opened the meeting house at various times during Quaker week and were pleased to welcome a number of visitors.

Cheltenham organised a community celebration for Quaker week and an open-air meeting for worship was held in Pitville Park. The meeting plans to take part in Remembrance celebrations in Cheltenham, and to lay a wreath including white poppies. Several Friends have supported the Quaker chaplaincy at Long Lartin prison.

Stroud arranged a bring-and-share lunch on 21 October and to listen to music associated with peace. The Christian Science church was invited to join them.

Safeguarding:

John Linsell, AM assistant safeguarding co-ordinator, presented the revised AM Safeguarding Policy and Guidance. Each meeting will get a printed copy of the revised policy and guidance. It will also be available on the AM website. Each meeting will also get a copy of a new, simple leaflet entitled “Our Quaker Community – a Safe Place to be”. Wendy Gerard, AM safeguarding co-ordinator, and John Linsell were thanked for their work in this important area. They will contact local meetings to offer help.

Peace Group:

A report from the meeting for learning on Sanctuary Meetings held in Gloucester on 22 September was submitted. The meeting for learning explored:

- what it is to be a Sanctuary Meeting and how this can support those already working with Asylum Seekers and Refugees and those considering working with them.
- how we can be enabled to build a culture of welcome to those people new to Britain, challenge racism and help change the laws on destitution, detention and deportation.

Individuals and meetings in Gloucestershire and Cheltenham as a Sanctuary Meeting shared information of the work already taking place. It was noted that many other community groups and non Quakers are involved in this work.

The meeting asked local meetings and also Area Meeting to consider becoming Sanctuary Meetings.

This will be discussed at the December Area Meeting.

Report from Elders:

Rosemary Andoh reported on the meeting of elders held at Gloucester on 29 September.

Elders were asked to arrange a “Quakers Sharing Experience” workshop.

Domestic Violence Group:

Jenny Daisley reported that two members now serve on the committee of the Beresford Group, which helps Stroud Women’s Refuge with publicity and fund raising. Jane Mace has recently laid down the role of convenor of the domestic violence group. She was thanked for her work.

Next meeting: 15 November at Nailsworth at 7.30 pm. All Friends will be welcome.

Park Street Mission:

Andrew Turrall reported that the sale of the Park Street site has been agreed. The distribution of the trust’s assets to other charities has been proposed.

Notices:

AM Newsletter

Please send contributions to Peter Carter by **23 November**.