

CHELTENHAM QUAKER

December 2018

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Celebrating the 70th anniversary of the Declaration of Human Rights - December 10th 1948-2018

Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home – so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world.....Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerned citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world.”

*Eleanor Roosevelt, first Chairperson of the UN Human Rights Commission in 1946**

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

DECEMBER			
Sunday	2	10.30 Noon 10 - 4 pm	Meeting for Worship Local Meeting for Worship for Business CWR Stall (see below)
Tuesday	4	7.30pm	Cheltenham Green Christian Meeting (see below)
Wednesday	5	7.00pm	Christchurch Carol Service: Bethlehem Choir (see below)
Thursday	6	6.30pm	Mid-Week Meeting-Experiment with Light (see below)
Sunday	9	10.30 2pm	Meeting for Worship Area Meeting for Worship for Business at Stroud
Monday	10		Human Rights Day - UNDHR (see below)
Thursday	13	7-9 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Action Group (see below)
Sunday	16	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship: Seasonal Reflections (see below) Meeting for Learning: Liz Bettles - Ancient Egypt and me: seeing that of God in everyone - past and present (see below)
Thursday	20	6.30 pm	Mid-Week Meeting - Words, God and Light (see below)
Sunday	23	10.30 noon	Meeting for Worship Worship sharing
Sunday	30	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.

*Eleanor Roosevelt served as a U.S. delegate to the United Nations General Assembly, as well as the first Chairperson of the UN Human Rights Commission in 1946. She was instrumental in drafting the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, presenting it to the General Assembly, saying, "We stand today at the threshold of a great event both in the life of the United Nations and the life of all mankind. This declaration may well become the international Magna Carta for all men everywhere."

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 17th December at the latest

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

10th December Human Rights Day

Human Rights Day is observed every year on **10 December** – the day the United Nations General Assembly adopted, in 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UNDHR). This year, Human Rights Day marks the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, a milestone document that proclaimed the inalienable rights which everyone is inherently entitled to as a human being -- regardless of race, colour, religion, sex, language, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. It is the most translated document in the world, available in more than 500 languages

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

2nd December: Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees (CWR) Stall - 10 - 4pm Outside M&S, High Street, Cheltenham

Come along and say "Hi"

If you would like to **donate baked goods** for us to "sell" (suggested donation amount), please get in touch with Cal Anton-Smith cantonsmith1@gmail.com 07889242767
<http://cheltenhamwelcomesrefugees.org.uk/>

4th December: Cheltenham Green Christian Meeting - 7.30 pm

The Old Priory, Clarence Street, Cheltenham

An open discussion meeting - a response to Pope Francis' teaching that, all Christian communities have an important role to play in ecological education (#214, Laudato Si'). How do we each become part of the solution, rather than part of the problem?

The Rev. Julie Nelson, many years of ministry behind her, will start us off by sharing a little of her experience.

Tea and coffee will be available from 7pm. Compline at c8.45.

5th December: Christchurch Carol Service - 7pm

Featuring the Bethlehem Choir and Zoughbi Zoughbi from the Wi'am Conflict Resolution Centre in Bethlehem.

It is hosted by the Amos Trust

Followed by baklava and mulled wine in Christ Church Parish Centre.

MID-WEEK MEETINGS 1st and 3rd Thursdays 6.30 - 9pm

6th Dec: Experiment with Light

20th Dec: "God, Words and Us" edited by Helen Rowlands - A discussion

Our final mid-week Meeting this year is to be on Thurs 20th Dec, discussing the book "God, Words and Us" edited by Helen Rowlands, which is an exploration of whether there is a commonality of language that all Quakers can share.

- It would make a particularly fruitful evening if as many people who feel able can read the book and come along to share thoughts. Usual timings of 6.30pm bring and Share Supper, 7.30pm discussion, 8.30pm half hour Meeting for Worship.
- The book is available from the Quaker Bookshop at Friends House, cost £8 plus postage.

Looking back over the year it seems that Midweek Meetings have been very well received and provided a welcome opportunity for Friends to meet informally between our Sunday Meetings for Worship.

The question of how to move these meetings into 2019 is now upon us.

Would the Meeting like to continue with the current way of exploring different spiritual practice, which includes opportunity for regular Light meditations, Centering prayer, lectio divina and suchlike, or perhaps other topics would be preferred?

Jo Joy would appreciate hearing back from Friends whether they have any particular thoughts, ideas or suggestions they might like to share.

Please get in touch with Jo Joy or Joseph Fuller, or speak to either Elders or Pastoral Friends.

MID-WEEK MEETING - NEW: ACTION GROUP 2nd and 4th Thursdays 7- 9pm

Action Group

We hope to find practical ways to enact Good both locally and in a wider context and we aim to encourage (give courage to each other!) and support each other in our spirit-guided action. We hope to embark on lots of short and long-term projects and what we do will evolve with the leadings of the group.

It is not our intention to hector and lecture people, we want all our actions to be positive and constructive. We hope our projects will spark thoughts and conversations beyond the Meeting House.

We will have snacks and drinks through the evening and a 30 minute meeting for worship to bring our time together to a close.

Both regular attenders and those new to Quakers are all very welcome.

13th December: Currently, we are working on some origami hearts bearing facts about the environmental impact of the fashion industry that we plan to place in the pockets of clothes in high street shops. We have designed some bio-degradable "why is there plastic on this?" stickers and we plan to go into supermarkets and place them on items with unnecessary plastic wrapping.

16th December: Seasonal Reflection

Our Meeting for Worship will have an advent and Christmas focus with some music and readings. Friends are invited to bring a poem or a reading. (This is instead of having a semi-programmed meeting on fifth Sunday, 30 December.) Mince pies will be served afterwards, followed by Meeting for Learning.

MEETING FOR LEARNING @ noon

Liz Bettles – Ancient Egypt and me: seeing that of God in everyone - past and present

Liz will speak about how her faith and her work as an archaeologist are interwoven.

DECEMBER COLLECTION: G.A.R.A.S. (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers).

This charity, based in Gloucester, welcomes those seeking asylum when they arrive, advocates for them in their daily struggles, and supports them if they face being sent back, as well as helping them adjust to their long term future if they are recognised as refugees. GARAS is financially independent from the Home Office.

Their website is www.garas.org.uk and donations can be sent to GARAS, 111 Barton Street, Gloucester, GL1 4HR. Telephone: 01452 550528.

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.

NOTE: No Local or Area Meetings in January, May, August and November 2019.