

**The Religious Society of Friends
Abergavenny Meeting
Newsletter August~September 2006**

Dates for your Diary:

Sunday 27th August, Meeting for Worship, at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am.

Sunday 27th August, After Meeting picnic with Hereford Friends see below

Sunday 3rd September, Meeting for Worship, at Llanfoist Village Hall, PM followed by a Speaker and a shared lunch see below.

Sunday 10th September, Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am,

Sunday 17th September, Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am.

Sunday 24th September, Meeting for Worship at Llanfoist Village Hall, 10am.

Tuesday 26th September, Pastoral Care Meeting @ Gill's 6pm

Saturday 30th September, Quiet Day for all MM Friends The speaker is Anne Ullathorne of Warwickshire MM until recently Clerk of Quaker Central Life Central Committee.

Invitation to all for a picnic on a farm Sunday 27th August, Philip and Alma have invited us to prolong our summer and join Hereford Friends for their annual picnic lunch and afternoon gathering from 12.30 onwards at Brinstone Farm, St Weonards. Drinks provided. Some people might want to go for a short walk, so bring appropriate footwear. The event is on rain or shine! It would be helpful if some people bring chairs although we do have a lot here. If anyone needs directions they will be available at Meeting at Llanfoist Hall or call Philip and Alma on 01981 580279.

September 3rd After Meeting stay and hear news from Palestine followed by a bring and share lunch to try out our new kitchen!

Anne Dickinson, an attender of Aberystwyth Meeting has kindly agreed to come and tell us about her experiences with QPSW in the Middle East. Anne has recently spent 3 months in the West Bank. She took part in the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme (EAPPI) which supports non-violent actions in support of a just and viable peace. The EAPPI programme is administered by QPSW. Anne is keen to talk to us about her witness and conditions in the West Bank.

We plan to follow the talk with a simple shared lunch. Drinks will be provided. Please

bring along fixings for your favourite sandwiches,(cheese, ham, tomatoes etc) the bread and butter will be provided, or something sweet.

A few hiccups still at Llanfoist Village Hall

You will notice that we are still without our designated cupboard so we still aren't able to bring our library books.

We are waiting for shelving to be constructed and the good news is that we see some progress has been made in the cupboard we are currently camping in!

If anyone needs access to the books please get in touch with Gill 01873 855 499.

Midweek Meeting for Worship change of day now Tuesday

At Edna Spencer's home, 10 Greystone Close, Mardy 01873 85 8757 on the 3rd Tuesday of the month. **The next Meeting is on Tuesday 19th September at 10.30am.** All are welcome. Please call a member of the pastoral care group (Gill, Klaus, Megan, Penny, Ronald and Hetta) to arrange a lift.

News from Kaimosi Friends Hospital West Kenya Theresa writes:

Background

Kaimosi Mission was started in 1902 by American Friends to separate warring tribes, the Tiriki and Kalenjin. After starting educational institutions a hospital of around 80 beds was also built. This became a centre of excellence in West Kenya, and the only medical care for miles around. When I worked there in the 1960's we covered all basic medical, surgical, paediatric and obstetric care, and cared for many orphans whose mothers had died at home.

Around the time of independence a new hospital of 140 beds was built but soon after independence the American Friends United Mission gradually withdrew support so that in 1980 all control was transferred to local Yearly Meeting. For a time the Government provided a doctor, but who also ran up large debts for telephone and facilities. The doctor was withdrawn in 1997 and things deteriorated further.

Current Position

Dedicated staff of an administrator, Gabriel Wabuti, a clinical officer, Josephine and a pastor, (Cheeseman) among others tried to keep things going during negotiations with FUM to resume some help. This was finalised early this year and FUM have resumed control of the hospital grounds, and a Board of eminent Kenyans and FUM representatives James and Eden Grace have been appointed. The Government has loaned a doctor Kamau,, but the length of his stay is uncertain. While visiting the hospital recently it was distressing to see patients attending and unable to afford fees for consultation, laboratory or treatment. This included an elderly man with a chronic cough who had been treated twice for TB. (We made sure he was tested for TB) Also several patients kept in the ward at Ks 300 a day (plus cost of examinations, treatment etc) because they could not afford to pay the bill. A young girl beaten unconscious by her father as she was pregnant whose brother intervened; both father and son are now in prison and the mother has no money.

Identified Needs:-

- ❖ Replacement of asbestos roof and ceilings \$40,000 before December 2006
- ❖ Funds for a Medical Officer \$ 1285 per month

We would also like to have a 'fund a bed' collection so that patients are not detained unnecessarily or have cattle or belongings taken in lieu

There are many other identified needs including possibly solar electricity, but they are longer term.

We do hope that Friends will be able to assist this Friends Hospital in Kenya Contributions maybe sent to FWCC, 173, Euston Road, London. NW1 2AX and maked on the back Friends Hospital Kaimosi. If you wanted to contribute to a specific project this could be stated in a letter.

Encircle the world with light

We have learnt that Quakers in North Lancashire have produced a poster with the wording below. You are invited to pass this idea on. To download a PDF of the poster from the Northern Friends Peace Board website, visit:

www.nfpb.gn.apc.org/melight.htm

Copies of the poster have been sent to John Sentamu, Archbishop of York, who is at the beginning of his week-long fast for peace in York Minster. We understand he will be attaching the poster to the tent in which he is spending his fasting week and distributing it to visitors.

TEXT OF THE POSTER:

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that Martin Luther King, Jr.

Let us Encircle the World With Light

Please light a candle every evening from 9.00pm - 10.00pm as witness to our common humanity

Salaam! Shalom ! Peace!

Do this for as long as violence rules in the Middle East.

Young Peoples Programme;

A date for your diary:-

We have made a date for our annual Pizza Programme Planning (PPP!!) meeting on **Friday 10th November** at Gill's @6pm

Meanwhile the remaining planned sessions will continue in October.

Meeting on 3rd September, We are asking for some help with the prep for the **Bring and Share lunch** during Meeting so that we can all be together to listen to Anne Dickinson talk following a short PM. We will have our Fairtrade Stall as usual.

Sunday 17th September As part of the Food Festival there is programmed talk 'Abergavenny: Fairtrade Town?' At 11am in the Hen and Chicks. A national expert has been invited to lead a discussion about Fairtrade and what it means, for the developing world and Abergavenny. We hope as many young people as possible will be able to come along.

Spiritual Life Report advance notice

A reminder that a Report of Spiritual Life Report of our Meeting is required for MM in Clun in January 2007

As usual we will put a file on the table in Meeting and those who feel inspired can make their contributions. We are hopeful that we will find contributions that truly represent all our riches.

Rota's

A big thankyou to everyone for coping so well with the new opening and closing routine. We're entering our third month and still no alarm bells have rung! thankyou for your patience especially Klaus who manages to keep those rotas going and updating us on changes.

Please take a look at the schedule for October and beyond. I've been reminded to say please consider the 1st and 3rd Sundays as an opportunity for young people to take their turn.

Editor's Note:

Contributions for the next newsletter, thoughts or comments about this newsletter are welcome either by post or email to:

Sara at sara@burchandcope.fsnet.co.uk or Gill at gillbranch@aol.com