

MARCH MEETINGS re ELDERS & OVERSEERS

Two meetings were held in March and a total of eight Friends were involved

1. Presiding Elder

The rota is being filled and we feel the experiment is going well. We need to ensure that everyone who would like to has the opportunity to sit with the Presiding Elder and no one feels excluded.

We also talked about not putting newcomers 'on the spot' after Meeting for Worship by asking them to introduce themselves. A general welcome may be more appropriate although some people like to introduce themselves and Friends from other meetings will usually want to do so.

The laminated 'prompt card' in the drawer has been updated to include this and also News of Friends.

2. The visitor's pack A basic visitor's pack is now in the Meeting House and can be handed out to newcomers.

Life of the Meeting

At our March shared lunch we wrote descriptions of our meeting on flipchart sheets. These have been photographed but are rather faint. We will go over the faint writing with felt tips and ask Stuart to photograph them again and also the sheet we have made for the cover. Eventually we will have a 4 sided booklet with a cover which we hope they can also go onto the website. The booklet will be included in the visitor's pack.

3. Update on new developments among membership

At each meeting we look at our list of members and attenders, update each other and check that everyone is alright. We also discuss whether there is anything that should go into 'News of Friends' after Meeting for Worship.

It was pointed out that the August 'outing' is another occasion when Friends can get to know each other better. We will advertise the date in notices and put it on the noticeboard - **August 2nd Kingston upon Thames Meeting House**

4. What would best assist the spiritual growth of the meeting?

We circulated Kim's guidance on Worship Sharing which was thought to be simple and useful. We will keep a laminated copy in the Meeting House Table drawer.

We talked a little about Worship Sharing and agreed that it needed to be introduced sensitively to people who hadn't experienced it before.

We agreed that we thought the questions we had come up with last time were more suitable for discussion than those in 'Living Eldership'. However we added one question from the book to our list (9)

The questions are:

1. how do we know when what we are saying is ministry or our ego speaking?
2. how do we know when we are speaking from the light?
3. how do we discern the presence of the light amongst us?
4. is there 'right' and 'wrong' ministry?
5. are people afraid to stand up in meeting?
6. how do we avoid being overwhelmed by the negative?

7. how do we define 'spiritual growth' for the meeting?
8. is there a yearning for a greater sense of worship?
9. how do we accompany each other?

We thought that the first 6 questions (all on Ministry) would form the basis of a useful discussion before/after a shared lunch and agree to hold it on April 12th. Questions 7, 8 and 9 would be part of a later session on Eldership. After April 12th we will decide whether it would be helpful to have a worship sharing (12.00) on Ministry or whether there might be another 'next step'.

We were reminded that the next 'Becoming Friends' is on April 30th and the topic will be 'Faith in Action'.

We will arrange the next planning meeting after April 12th.