

ANNUAL REPORT ON 2019, MALVERN LOCAL QUAKER MEETING

1. Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

The life of our Meeting is greatly enhanced by the shared lunches normally held on the third Sunday of every month, and whenever there is a fifth Sunday. On the latter we usually invite a speaker. Good fellowship is also enjoyed on our annual Summer Outing and Winter Social. This year we have had talks from the CEO of Maggs Day Centre, from a local representative of Christians Against Poverty and from Phil Kingston re his notable activism in London and elsewhere for Extinction Rebellion. The local group of the latter meets weekly on our premises, and for a few months there has also been a joint venture by them and some of our members called 'Earth Vigil' – silence, sharing and a vegan meal. During Quaker Week we held two music concerts and Lucy Aphramor's one-person show 'Raise the Roof'. These events, along with the continuance of large numbers coming to the Repair Café where they can see our posters and literature, participation of our members and attenders in Peace and Climate demonstrations make a witness to a wider public. We also take part in inter-denominational events such as World Day of Prayer and the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.

2. Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

There is a strong message of Peace from our Meeting, from the ongoing work of several people taking Peace education into local schools, including new ones this year, and the presence of our representatives, with a wreath of white poppies, at the annual Remembrance gathering. Two professional banners were commissioned, bearing the phrases '*Use your technologies to heal the world*' and '*Quakers say: " Use your skills to tackle the climate emergency".*' We continue to support the maintenance of the Quaker Peace garden at Malvern Cube. We have held learning and discussion series on Environment Issues and on Vocal Ministry. A banner showing the Quaker testimonies was made by one of our members and displayed in Malvern Priory throughout August. Another member arranged a stall to display Quaker literature at the Malvern Pride Event in Priory Park.

3. Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad

Several people in our Meeting are still active among the people from abroad whose settling in Malvern has been facilitated by *Malvern Welcomes*. The imminent opening of the Malvern Day Centre operated by Maggs gives new opportunities for service to the homeless. One of our members regularly gives treatments to Maggs clients in Worcester; our Meeting and some individuals are giving financial support to Maggs Malvern. A young disabled Ugandan woman is financially supported in her studies through our Special Collection and some of us individually so that she may become capable of earning a living.

4. Funding our Concerns

During 2019 we received £6,420 in Contributions etc. (down by £415 from 2018) and £6,840 from Lettings, (up by £330 from 2018). Interest received amounted to £7,595, (up by £2780). Expenditure was as follows: Quaker Activities: £1520; Grants and Donations: £5000; Premises: £5565; Governance: £555; Designated Funds (Peace Work) £5795. The gain on Investments amounted to £3285.

5. Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Our Elders and Overseers formally, and others from Meeting informally, visit and give appropriate assistance to local people who are becoming challenged or disadvantaged by advancing age or ill health. Meetings for Worship are taken to the homes of those who are no longer able to come to our meeting house. We still have funds remaining from the Vernon Smith legacy, in which the testator expressed a wish that the money should be used for education. No hardship grants were made in 2019, but funds are still available for this when need arises.

6a Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world.

Our Meeting House Committee meets several times a year, or as need arises, to ensure that all premises matters are attended to. In 2019 our Malvern Meeting House was given listed status. The main work project set in motion in 2019 was to improve the rear access, which was unsatisfactory for wheelchair users. In the event, it was noted that all the tarmac areas surrounding the building were beginning to degrade, so a contractor was engaged, after a few quotations, and the work was completed at the end of January 2020.

6b How are we acting sustainably?

We are renewing our investigation of a heating system which is more environmentally friendly.

7. Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting.

All our committees are functioning well in support of Quaker work, and we have increased our direct giving to BYM as a meeting.

8./9. People in our Meeting working with children:

Our Meeting does not have children attending regularly. A number of people in our Meeting have completed a criminal records disclosure for the Peace Education project, and it is those people who work with any children who do attend occasionally or visit.

10. Concerning the Malvern Meeting House:

We do have an accident book, stored in the kitchen with the First Aid Kit. Nothing was recorded for 2019.

Fire safety and evacuation signs are in place. Our Fire extinguishers are serviced in accordance with official recommendations.

Portable Appliance Testing is carried out regularly.

Health and Safety information, in accordance with Area Meeting Policy, is reviewed annually by the Meeting House Committee.

Conditions of use for Hirers is issued to new Hirers and is due to be updated during 2020 when we have a change of Lettings officer.