



Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

April 2020



Primroses in the Dell House Garden

The Meeting House will not be open for any purpose apart from funerals and all other events are cancelled

Meeting for Worship and staying connected

This is a strange time for us all. Although we are not able to meet together there is a lot going on. On-line Meetings for Worship have been set up across the country. Bewdley Friends have set one up and will continue to open it to the whole Area Meeting and the possibility of setting one up for Malvern Meeting is being explored, using Zoom. Eoin has done it many times with Friends all over the country, and would be content to help coach others in the use of Zoom (eoin.mccarthy@decisionstrust.org, 01684 891566).

For those not able or wishing to try on-line worship, the suggestion is to hold Meeting in your home, reflecting on Advices and Queries. The suggested one for Sunday 5th is no 10

Here are some thoughts from an on-line Meeting when some in our Area Meeting considered how it might best stay connected in this time. The full notes are attached, but here are some thoughts about how to move forward on Meetings for Worship for Business:

- Guidance it being drawn together by Woodbrooke and Quaker Life.
- There are difficulties in discerning the will of God when using digital technologies.
- We still have business to attend to, such as nominations for the next triennium.
- North Scotland Friends regularly conduct their business online and that Quaker Life Rep council also prepare for their meetings remotely.
- If our business meetings are to continue, Area and Local Meeting clerks will need to do lots of preliminary work, such as sending out papers in advance.

Martin Layton is happy to collate any responses and forward them onto Area Meeting clerks as well as the conveners of Elders and Overseers.

All mailing from Friends House are being replaced by *Quake!* Some of you may get this already, but I'm happy to circulate when I receive it, adding local news. So keep information coming to me and I'll share it.

The deadline for next Newsletter is Tuesday 28th April.

Elizabeth Rolph

Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk

The funeral of Peter Thomas

This will take place on Wednesday 1st April at 11.00 at the Meeting House, followed by a private cremation. This is for immediate family, Elders and a few of Barbara's close friends. Please hold them in your thoughts.

If you have any memories of Peter you can share please let me have them for the next Newsletter.



Special Collection for April

Farmers Overseas Action Group has been working with partners in Uganda supporting agriculture and social projects for over 35 years.

Projects are in Eastern Uganda where it is mostly very dry. They include, helping farmers grow more with less waste (agroforestry with oxen and safe grain storage), help for hospital and nurse training, Budaka home for disabled children and St Francis.

St Francis is a home for 65 disabled children needing corrective surgery due to polio, joint infections and misdirected injections, club feet. It is very special to Betty, who spent a lot of time there, and any cheques sent to her will be directed to this. The children only have a very limited diet so it's good to enable them to supplement that occasionally with some meat otherwise it is millet porridge (very watery) for breakfast with posho and beans for lunch with the occasional banana and vegetable when available. Money is also used for buildings to improve facilities.

You can give direct online, or send Betty Hudson a cheque (payable to FOAG) for her to forward on.

Send a Cow

It is possible to donate to the March Special Collection through their website. Any donation received before 14th April will be matched by the UK government and help the people and wildlife of Uganda to thrive alongside one another.

<https://sendacow.org/appeals/living-with-wildlife/>

Meeting for Worship on Sunday 22nd March

Elizabeth Rolph

Six of us sat in a widely spaced circle in the Meeting House on the last Sunday when this was permitted. Jill Etheridge chose to read the names of everyone on our Meetings list (and newcomers) so we could hold them all in our thoughts. It was good to be there.

News of Friends

Betty Hudson has enjoyed getting in touch with old friends. The following were all well when she contacted them: Mary Callaway, Helen Chiverton, Joy and David Brandreth, Elizabeth Remfry, Pat and Stuart Slack, Elin and Muriel Cadman.

Advices & Queries No 28

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

Would you like a copy of The Friend?

Melanie Jameson

Three copies of the Friend are delivered to the Meeting House. Let me know if you'd like to have one of them. mj@dyslexia-malvern.co.uk

Climate Change events now on-line

Melanie Jameson

The following letter was published in the Malvern Gazette:

The BBC was criticised for pursuing strict impartiality in the airtime given to climate change spokespeople and those who deny man-made climate change, despite the science being unequivocally on the side of the former group.

Last week's letters seem have fallen into the same pattern with a letter demonstrating that 'climate change is real' followed by a correspondent who speaks of the alarmism and fanaticism of 'climate change disciples'.

Anyone who feels the need to be better informed about the science behind this hot topic is in luck: we have two opportunities within the next ten days.

On March 30 Transition Malvern Hills explores how emissions can be reduced to net zero; this session will take place online via Zoom, link: <https://zoom.us/j/544847254>

Then, on April 4, we have 'Heading for Extinction and what to do about it' (rescheduled from a public presentation at Lansdowne Methodist Church) now by joining Zoom Meeting <https://zoom.us/j/395572691>. This facility enables participation.

I urge readers of this paper, on either side of the debate, to take the opportunity to listen with an open mind to the information presented to them and to carefully consider what their response should be.

Melanie Jameson, Malvern

For further information on the Extinction Rebellion event on April 4th see

www.xrmalvern.org.uk

Malvern Local Meeting Report for 2019

Every year your clerks are asked to submit a report to Area Meeting trustees, using a set template. This was compiled by Jill, working from input from reports received during the year. This is attached as a separate document.

Phil Kingston (83), Christian Climate Action Exemplar

Richard Bartholomew

Friends may remember Phil Kingston coming to speak at the Meeting House last May about his work in trying to speak truth to power about the climate emergency. Phil can be seen in his own words on this video at <https://www.bristolpost.co.uk/news/bristol-news/extinction-rebellion-bristol-london-phil-2800286>

He was recently in touch with the latest news of the trial in which he, a retired university lecturer and a retired GP and others, are accused of Malicious Damage, please read Phil's own words below:

"I am one of 6 defendants in a Crown Court case to be tried in London in May. The charge is *Malicious Damage by stopping a train on the London overground at Canary Wharf and climbing on top of it*. We are pleading not guilty on the grounds that we were trying to prevent serious harm to upcoming generations, to the poorest peoples, and to much of other-than-human nature. The best outcome we can hope for is that the jury will find us not guilty, because that will support the rightness of our cause.

Whilst we have only a small likelihood of succeeding because the judge will almost certainly tell the jury that in current law we are guilty, a jury can always decide otherwise. We are going ahead with our plea and employing excellent solicitors (Bindmans) who are in turn employing barristers. The legal team have already done considerable work on our behalf and we hope to continue seeking their help, at least up until the first few days of this two-week trial. We have set up a crowd-funding appeal for anyone who would like to contribute to these costs, which individually will amount to about £2000 for each of us (not including fines and costs imposed by the Court if we are found guilty)."

Thank you, the link to the crowd funding is <https://www.crowdjustice.com/draft/5131/r/AzcbEMGXRcCTeJY11FZdIA/> . People have already donated about a half of the £10,000 which we hope to raise so it is a very heartening response.

Family News

Elizabeth Rolph



It is hard to believe that two weeks ago we were excited about Martin's wedding, which would have been last Saturday. There was some concern at that point, but no thought that it could be cancelled. Luckily they worked fast on the Tuesday and have got a date for next March.

It is a weekend do at a Wildlife Trust centre south of Bristol, and I'm in charge of flowers. We'd bought and planted lots of small daffodils last September, to go in pots on the tables for people to take away. They are flowering wonderfully now, and should be OK for next year. Last Saturday I made up a beautiful 'practice' bouquet for Caitlin and sent her a picture of it - and enjoyed it here.

Sustainability Conference

On the 22nd February, Friends World Committee for Consultation organised an online conference, bringing together 300 Friends from across the world to share on the theme of sustainability. During the conference, a group of Elders were listening to the spoken ministry. After the conference they wrote a reflective statement. To read their statement see <http://fwcc.world/sustainability/statements>

Easter Message from the Chair of Churches Together Malvern

It is with sadness, that we have to cancel the open-air act of witness on Good Friday. In cancelling, but still wanting to respond, I propose that on Good Friday we unite from our homes across Malvern in prayer. We will not only reflect on the death of Jesus, but raise up our prayers and requests to the God who gave everything for our forgiveness and in order that we may be back in relationship with Him. He's still the God who saves and heals and gives life both here in the present, and eternal life to follow.