



# MALVERN QUAKER NEWS SHEET DECEMBER 2016 & JANUARY 2017

**PLEASE NOTE: usual hourly Meeting for Worship on Xmas Day**

DATE	TIME	EVENT
Sun 4th Dec	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Wed 7th	12.00–12.40	<b>Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship</b>
Wed 7th	13.30–3.00	<b>Meetings for Use of Malvern Meeting Funds PTO</b>
Sat 10th	10.30–1.00	<b>Area Meeting in Bewdley</b>
Sun 11th	From noon	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b>
Wed 14th	10.30–12.00	<b>Discuss Q Faith &amp; Practice, Ch 27 Our Unity &amp; Diversity</b>
Wed 14th	8.00–9.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b>
Sat 17th	9.30–4.00	<b>Difficult Conversations Workshop Emslie House. PTO</b>
Sat 17th	10.00–2.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Sun 18th	10.30–11.30	Half hour Meeting for Worship until 11am, followed by half an hour when Friends can contribute readings, carols etc.
Sun 8th Jan	From noon	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b>
Sat 21st	10.00–2.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Sat 21st	From 6.30	<b>New Year social event with supper [SEE BELOW]</b>

**VITAL SPARK Carol Concerts:** Wed 7th Dec, 7.30pm, Colwall Parish Church and Wed 21st Dec, 8pm, West Malvern Village Hall



### NEW YEAR SOCIAL EVENT on January 21st

This will be a chance for Friends to relax, enjoy each other's' company and share a supper. As usual we shall draw on the talents of Friends for our entertainment.

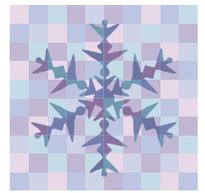
Please contact Liz with offers of food, by email or on 573315

### Collection totals for 2016, January to October

Jan – The Retreat, York	£191.66	Feb – Myatt Foyer	£101.20
Mar – Chernobyl Children	£183.10	Apr – Debane Trust .	£133.30
May – Quaker Housing	£127.50	Jun – Syrian Refugees Malvern	£105.05
July – FOAG	£226.07	Aug/ Sept –Doctors without Borders	£423.85
Oct – Quaker Social Housing	£274.20		

## NEWS and VIEWS

### A Message from Overseers: What are the new Link Groups at Malvern Meeting?



What are these 'Link Groups'? They are about OVERSIGHT – which, broadly speaking, is about pastoral care. Why are we having smaller oversight groups? In this way, each one of us is encouraged to keep an eye out for one another, with smaller groupings making it easier to keep contact. It is not designed to be intrusive or exclusive!

Each Overseer will link with two of the smaller Link Groups and remains the 'point of reference' for matters such as (part-)funding for Quaker courses and events, cases of need and practical help.

If people in a Group wish to meet up socially this can easily be arranged – in this way we can get to know each other better. This is not designed to cut across existing friendships and will remain a flexible arrangement. You will be contacted by your Overseer in the New Year.

### BEING FRIENDS TOGETHER Woodbrooke day course 10 Nov

Andrew Jameson

This is just one of several initiatives being launched by Friends to re-invigorate Quaker meetings and communities. Basically it is a bringing together on one website of a considerable quantity of Quaker learning materials from various sources which can be used for deepening the life of the spirit and exploring the living traditions of Quakerism together. In his opening talk Alastair Fuller asked us to be "champions of Quaker life". BFT is not a course, it's a library, or rather a Treasure Trove, to go with Enquirers packs and Outreach handbooks (which are both free of charge to meetings). Alastair mentioned that, when going through and choosing materials, a number of factors emerged which seemed to give life to Quaker meetings: 1. The centrality of worship and engaging with the testimonies; 2. Willingness to talk about conflicts; 3. The principle that all have equal voice; 4. There should be leadership but not dominance; 5. There should be a good supply of cake!

In the afternoon Mark Russ introduced the website. There is a small subscription fee (£35 was mentioned) and this may be paid by Area Meeting and shared, or any meeting or individual could have one. The Home page is <http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk/welcome.php> We were strongly advised to start from **Themes, go to Pathways, then Step, finally choose Options. It was also stressed that, when we have found a good resource, we need to note the catalogue number so that we can easily find it again.**

### Ugandan News

Betty Hudson

Rovia Owachira, the disabled Ugandan girl, whom Malvern Friends have agreed to sponsor via Worcestershire Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG), sat her GCSEs in Nov and hopes to continue at St Elizabeth's Girls Secondary School at Kidetock for her A levels. We have sent £356 to FOAG for her support for 2017; this will cover her school fees, her personal needs and travel to and from school (expenses in 2016 were £355).

Connie Akiror has completed her MSc with Merit at Birmingham University in Immunology and Immunotherapy. She had hoped to continue her this work in researching liver problems as a paid post (enabling her to repay half of her grant from the Aga Khan Foundation) but that was not to be as preference for the post had to go to a British girl.

FOAG has a new chairman, Nabil Jamous, in whom we can have complete confidence.

### News from Long Lartin prison

Melanie Jameson

Various worshipping groups now include both mainstream and 'vulnerable' prisoners, a surprising move at a time of such high tensions in our prisons. This initiative included the two Quaker-led worship groups which are now combined. I was privileged to attend the first one of these at the end of October and witness the welcome to the new arrivals made by the prisoner accepted into Quaker membership recently.

£68.20 has been collected from two Area Meetings to help fund a card-making workshop; this is another good initiative from our Quaker Chaplains but has been delayed by timetabling problems within the prison.

## Meetings for Use of Malvern Meeting Funds

Paul Wyatt

At the October Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting, held at Malvern Meeting House, David Rolfe (WSAQM Treasurer) held a structured workshop designed to help the discernment for use of Local Meeting House Funds.

Malvern Local Quaker Meeting has a substantial amount of funds (£70,000) at its disposal for Quaker work in the Malvern area. This money has to be utilised in accordance with our Area Meeting charitable objectives, namely:

The object of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting (WSAQM) is the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain in the area of WSAQM and beyond.

To that end, this Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)'s income and property are used solely to further the Area Meeting's object by work such as:

- i) strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings both in the area of WSAQM and beyond;
- ii) spreading the message of Quakers and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Religious Society;
- iii) undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad;
- iv) funding the concerns that Quaker meetings in the area of WSAQM or beyond have adopted or agreed to support;
- v) providing for the pastoral care of individual members and Attenders including assistance to those in need and for education;
- vi) maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places for public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world;
- vii) administering and maintaining the organisation of WSAQM and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting.

If you have any ideas as to how Malvern Quaker Meeting funds could be used in relation to these Charitable Objectives, please come to the Meetings for Use of Funds that Liz Flanagan and myself are holding, using David Rolfe's structure, at our Meeting House on the following dates:

<b>Dec 7th, 13.30 - 15.00</b>	(after midday Meeting for Worship) <u>Collation of ideas</u>
<b>Jan 25th, 19.30 - 21.00</b>	<u>Reviewing ideas and their feasibility</u>
<b>Feb 8th, 13.30 - 15.00</b>	<u>Preparing a report / presentation for our Business Meeting, March 5th</u>

If you are unable to attend these Meetings, please contact Paul on 0800 0113219, via email [wsamqtrustees@gmail.com](mailto:wsamqtrustees@gmail.com) or post/drop off your written proposal at the Meeting House, 1 Orchard Road, Malvern WR14 3DA. *We look forward to seeing you and/or receiving your ideas.*



### Quakers at Remembrance Sunday

Melanie Jameson

Six Malvern Quakers attended the remembrance service on Sun Nov 13th. It was a slightly strange experience with young people parading in various cadet and brownie or cub uniforms and jolly band music. The final piece, bizarrely, is the one forever associated with Monty Python. Is this the best way to remember the dead, wounded and traumatised of so many wars? Only the 'last post' really brought it home for me. The Quakers were the last to approach the war memorial; among the many wreaths was our home-made cross of white poppies.

### Difficult Conversations Introductory Workshop, 17th Dec

Eoin McCarthy

Tea/coffee 9.30. 10am-4pm Emslie House, Avenue Rd. Cost £60, bursaries are available .

As people, partners, parents, siblings, colleagues, or neighbours, we all have difficult conversations. We may feel the need to speak out when we feel or think that our principles are not being respected. For the historical background to this approach see

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard\\_Negotiation\\_Project](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harvard_Negotiation_Project). It is useful to familiarize yourself in advance with the book *Difficult Conversations* by Stone, Patton & Heen, 2nd ed. (2010) Penguin. To find out more, borrow a copy of the book and book a place, contact Eoin on 01684 891566.