



# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter



**February 2019**

**Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>TIME</b>	<b>EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)</b>
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup> Feb	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
<b>Every Wednesday</b>	9.30 to 12.30	<b>Open Morning in the Meeting House for gathering and fellowship.</b>
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	12.00–12.40	<b>Monthly Midday Meeting for Worship</b> (Bring a packed lunch if you're staying on)
Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> (1 <sup>st</sup> Wed)	1.30 – 3.00	<b>Reading Group</b> Bring and share a book you've enjoyed. Contact: Liz Flanagan
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 – 4.00	<b>Area Meeting at Worcester</b> (see below)
Sat 9 <sup>th</sup>	10 – 12.30	<b>Christians Against Poverty Malvern Open Morning, Lyttelton Rooms.</b> Drop in to this launch event to find out more and how you may be able to help. CAP is a charity specialising in debt counselling. Contact <a href="mailto:chrimesley@capuk.org">chrimesley@capuk.org</a>
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup>		<b>Food for thought and wonder at Evesham Meeting House</b> (see below)
Thur 14 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday)	6.00–7.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b> 30 minutes MfW followed by drinks
Sat 16 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Sun 17 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday)	12.00	<b>Shared lunch after MfW</b> This is a new initiative, replacing the fifth Sundays Meeting lunch. They are a social event giving us the opportunity to know each other more deeply. Co-ordinated by Judith Badman or Liz Flanagan. Soup or a hot dish to be provided, please bring other contributions
Sun 24 <sup>th</sup>	3 pm	<b>Open Meeting: Malvern Churches Justice &amp; Peace Group</b> see below
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March		<b>Women's World Day of Prayer</b> (see below)
Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>		<b>National Quaker Day of Healing.</b> Meeting for Worship to be held, details to be announced. Contact Jill Etheridge
Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>

**Contributions for the next Newsletter by Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> Feb**

## Receiving the Newsletter and other communications

Elizabeth Rolph

If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be, or have changed your e-mail, please contact me. Please note that items sent to the [Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk) come to me only. Those sent to [Clerks@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Clerks@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk) come to Jill Etheridge and myself.

Remember if you wish to send e-mails to lists of people you should use bcc (as I do) to respect other people's privacy and reduce the spread of viruses.

## Special Collection for February

Andrew Jameson



Celebrating 25 years supporting Chernobyl children and their families in Belarus and Ukraine  
- still going strong for those that need our help

# Chernobyl Children's Lifeline

Supporting children affected by the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster

The Chernobyl Children's charity in Malvern is just one of a hundred or more set up to bring Belorussian children to the UK in order to help them re-establish their immune systems after suffering damage due to the nuclear power station explosion in Ukraine in 1986. They suffer from various forms of cancer (thyroid is the most common).

The children are aged 8-14 and they are accompanied by a qualified teacher. The money raised is needed to pay the high price demanded by the British side for their visas, and they are accommodated here in families in the Malvern area who themselves have children in the same age group. Local doctors and dentists give them a thorough examination and treatment, and they are taken for various treats and outings in Worcestershire.

As a Russian speaker I am wheeled on to help supervise them as they swim in the Splash sports centre, and a nicer, funnier, smarter group would be hard to find. They usually come to us in June, but the money is needed well before that so that the necessary bureaucracy can be completed.

## Malvern Churches Justice & Peace Group Open Meeting:

### ***How To Criticise Israeli Government Policies Without Being Labelled Anti-Semitic?***

This is a controversial topic for discussion at the Meeting House on 24<sup>th</sup> February. The Speaker is Dr Edie Friedman, Executive Director and founder of the Jewish Council for Racial Equality. She is a regular speaker and writer on race and asylum issues.

This is a free but ticketed event. Tickets can be obtained from [www.eventbrite.co.uk](http://www.eventbrite.co.uk) (you need to 'pick the date' as 24 Feb, then give 25 Feb as the end date, put Great Malvern as the location, then search) or from Mary and Philip on 01684 574346. Tea and cakes will be served following the talk when Dr Friedman will answer questions and a more general discussion can take place.

## Women's World Day of Prayer 1<sup>st</sup> March 2019

Everyone - men, women and children of all ages is welcome to join this Day of Prayer. Women of Slovenia, one of the smallest and youngest countries in Europe, have prepared this year's service and they encourage us to reflect on the barriers they have faced since the end of the Second World War when their country was a part of Yugoslavia, a Marxist socialist republic. They share the challenges they have met and the hopes they have for the future.

This World Day of Prayer is an international, inter-church organisation which enables us to hear the thoughts of women from all parts of the world: their hopes, concerns and prayers. It is celebrated in over 120 countries. It begins in Samoa and prayer in native languages travels throughout the world --- through Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and the Americas before finishing in American Samoa some 38 hours later.

In Malvern the services will be at 2.00pm in St Matthias Church, Church Road, Malvern Link and at 7.30pm in the Eden Church, Grovewood Road, off Townsend Way, WR14 1GD.



## Food for thought and wonder at Evesham Meeting House

This is organised by Peter Knight, a retired Vicar. It is an opportunity to share deeper experiences and sources of inspiration. After a successful first event, two sessions will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of each month, 3.00 to 4.30 and 7.30 to 9.00.

See <http://living-with-micah.com/blog/food-for-thought-and-wonder>

For directions see <http://www.evesham-quakers.org.uk/Contact.html#Map>

## Other Dates for your diary:

### May 24 -27: Britain Yearly Meeting at Friends House

This year's focus is on examining our privilege (and assumptions of privilege) and how it impacts on our ability to act on our urgent Quaker concerns regarding climate justice and sustainability, and inclusion and diversity. Registration is now open (this is not to book a place, but to help with organisation and keep you informed). <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/ym/>

### Malvern Festival of Ideas 1st – 3rd March

This is a themed weekend of talks, discussion and activities on the topic *Crisis* and themed sessions explore this topic from different perspectives including Health, Social and Political perspectives. One of the events was to be at the Meeting House but it was so popular it has been moved. *Colonisation and Decolonisation of the Soul*, by Professor Alastair McIntosh, will now be at the Malvern Cube, Albert Road on Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> March at 2.15.

See <http://www.malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk/>

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> March: Handling Difficult Conversations Workshop** Edgbaston Quaker Meeting House. The workshop will be facilitated by Ivan Hutnik and Alistair Heslop - you may have seen Ivan's recent article in 21 & 28 Dec edition of The Friend. See <http://restoringrelations.org/>

### Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March: Campaign against the Arms Trade Day of Action, Birmingham.

The DPRTE Arms fair is coming to Birmingham on 28 March 2019. Bringing together all parts of the arms industry, DPRTE exists to network small manufacturers with some of the world's largest arms companies and the UK military. Major arms dealers such as BAE Systems, whose weapons have been used to crush pro-democracy movements around the world, and the UK Ministry of Defence will be coming to Birmingham, looking for new business partners. More details to follow, contact [melanie-jameson@outlook.com](mailto:melanie-jameson@outlook.com)

She is attending the Nonviolent communication course at Storridge Village Hall on Saturdays 2<sup>nd</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> February, 10 - 12. If you are interested please contact her.

**6 June: Ben Dandelion** will be speaking at Christ Church Hall, Malvern (7.30 pm), organised by the Malvern Progressive Christianity Network.



## Malvern Foodbank

There is a box for items under the Clerks table in the Meeting House for items. The current shortages are Jam, Tomato Ketchup, Sugar 500g and 1kg bags, Toilet Soap, Dog Food Children's toothbrushes.

If you want to receive monthly updates on shortages please e-mail [Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk)

## Area Meeting in Worcester

This should be an interesting meeting. In the main agenda are two items we have been asked to consider in advance:

- 1) Area Meeting's possible donation to and link with Worcestershire Interfaith; and
- 2) Communications within Area Meeting: How should the collective e-mail list be used? Should the Minutes and Reports be circulated directly rather than through Local Meetings?

As your Clerks, we hope Area Meeting is able to support the interfaith group. We also suggest that communications about Area Meeting are generally distributed via Local Meetings, as is done at present.

Most of the afternoon will be devoted to a workshop on Living Sustainably, following up from the discussion at Area Meeting at Malvern in October. Local Meeting representatives are asked to bring one example of something their LM has done recently to, for example, reduce the Meeting's carbon footprint, and another action the LM would like to take in future. Our review of heating as set out in the report below is the appropriate example to give. One possible future action is to explore how car use can be minimised by encouraging car sharing.

Sandwiched between these discussions, Lea Cowan will talk about her experience on the two-year Equipping for Ministry course, which she completed in January 2018, and the year that has followed.

## Malvern Quaker Meeting Annual Report and other Area Meeting Matters Jill Etheridge and Elizabeth Rolph

In January of each year Clerks are asked to complete a questionnaire about what the Meeting has done in the past year using the headings from Quaker Faith and Practice 14.04 giving one or two good examples as well as areas for improvement. This year we have been asked specifically to report what the Meeting has achieved in terms of sustainability. The Reports go to Area Meeting Trustees and are consolidated to produce an Annual Report for the Area Meeting as a whole.

We have used Reports from Elders & Overseers and committees, and Local Meeting minutes to compile the following Report.

### Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting:

Malvern LM is well supported by having effective committees which meet with a frequency appropriate to their varying roles and each prepared a report on their activities so far during the autumn. These are Elders, Overseers (each group meets separately as well as jointly), Meeting House and Use of Funds Committees. The life of the people in the Meeting is strengthened by several social events each year, including a summer outing and January supper followed by do-it-ourselves entertainment.

### Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society:

Arranged by Elders and Overseers, Discussion Groups have been held, some of which have explored the Strategic Aims set out by Quaker Life Central Committee. A powerful Peace message has been proclaimed in several ways this year, notably by a street survey of local opinions about the 'Defence Expo' which was held at the Three Counties Showground and a demonstration with placards opposite the exit used by delegates as they left. The distribution of White Poppies through members of our meeting has been extended more widely this year; two of our attenders took part in the Town ceremony at the War Memorial, laying a white poppy wreath, and another attender spoke movingly at the Remembrance Concert in Malvern Priory.

### Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad:

One member frequently attends Quaker Meeting at Long Lartin Prison; various individuals give practical help regarding refugees and the homeless; and Meeting has made substantial grants to assist *Malvern Welcomes* to bring refugee families to settle in the town.

### Funding our concerns:

We noted from the Treasurer's interim report at the end of October that income was slightly higher than by the same stage last year, having already received more from contributions than was envisaged in our Financial Plan for the year. This should more than balance out the slightly higher spending than in recent years. The Use of Funds Committee was set up to review the appropriateness and viability of potential projects wishing to claim from the Legacy funds and has been very useful as we arranged to assist *Malvern Welcomes* and the *Peaceful Schools Project*.

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

Our Overseers and also Elders are diligent in attending to the special needs of members and attenders who are in poor health or housebound because of age. 'Link groups' of between 5-8 people encourage all of us to keep a caring eye on the others in our small group, with each Overseer being the reference person linking to two such groups. Unfortunately we are in need of a fourth Overseer, but four people approached by Nominations committee members were not happy to have their names brought forward. Grants have been approved for those wishing to attend Woodbrooke Courses.

### Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry out our witness into the world:

Our Meeting House Committee meets approximately every two months and attends efficiently to all matters for our premises. An activities week enabled various members and attenders to assist with minor maintenance issues. A 'House Repair' book alerts committee members to tasks that need action. Many groups use the premises and thus are introduced to Quaker principles and activities.

### Re Sustainability:

Over more than two years our Meeting has explored fully the matter of heating the Meeting House. This included the study of data collected by a retired attender whose professional expertise is in this field, and a visit to Sutton Coldfield Friends Meeting House to see and learn about their Air Source Heat System. After much agonising, Meeting discerned and decided early in 2018 that, until newer technology may emerge, we will continue with our present system, given that we use 100% renewable electricity. Further draught-proofing

work has been carried out this year. We use recycled paper and environmentally-friendly products as fully as possible.

#### Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting:

Elders have remarked in their own report that they consider that our new arrangement of two Co-Clerks has resulted in creativity and efficiency. We have increased our giving to BYM this year and will review this contribution annually with an intention to keep increasing it as we are able.

#### Checking helpers working with children

No new people have been recruited this year, so all DRB checks are up to date. The Convener for working with children is aware of the need, in the case of future helpers, to supply a helper's form, possibly take up references and to alert such people to health and safety issues.

#### Arrangements for supporting and training those working with children.

At Malvern, in the absence of a regular Children's Meeting, our training and support has applied mainly to those working in our area in the Peaceful Schools Project, which our Meeting initiated and which is led by Liz Flanagan, with Jon Knight and Peter Bevan also participating. Our Children's Room is also becoming a 'Peace Hub' with resources for teachers to access. Elders report that we are aware of safeguarding principles and have incorporated these into the discussion of the Peaceful Schools work.

#### Care of Premises

Our efficient Meeting House Committee ensures that Fire Evacuation signs and Extinguishers are suitably maintained, that warning signs (e.g. re hot water) are in place and that P.A.T testing is done annually. Our Lettings Officer issues all Hirers with conditions of use.

### **Advices & Queries No 21**

Do you cherish your friendships, so that they grow in depth and understanding and mutual respect? In close relationships we may risk pain as well as finding joy. When experiencing great happiness or great hurt we may be more open to the working of the Spirit.



### **Update on Rovia from Betty Hudson**

We support Rovia through our Special Collections for Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG). She is doing a certificate in business studies. She is in her last semester and has performed well in all the subjects except accounts which she will re-sit in March. She is currently doing industrial training at a bakery.

She is very appreciative for the support she gets.

## The Malvern Mystery Play

This is a new initiative which is being directed by Rob Swinton (of Great Malvern Priory). He is keen that as many people as possible from across the Malvern church community are involved in this production. If anyone is interested in becoming involved they should contact either Rob via email ([rjhsinton2508@gmail.com](mailto:rjhsinton2508@gmail.com)) or phone 01684 564928, and let Elizabeth know ([Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk)). It would be great for our Meeting to be involved in this.

## Roots of Resistance

This is the new network of Quakers dedicated to mobilising to stop the DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) arms fair in 2019. The biggest Meeting for Worship outside Yearly Meeting in 2017 was held in protest outside DSEI. The aim is for 1,000 to stop the arms fair.

Roots of Resistance are looking for people to help mobilise Friends to oppose the DSEI arms fair in London 2019. No experience required!

For more information on getting involved, please sign up at:

<https://rootsofresistance.org.uk/get-involved/sign-up>



**Quaker  
Council for  
European  
Affairs**

In 2019 QCEA will celebrate 40 years of bringing a Quaker vision of peace, justice and equality to Europe and its institutions. It will also be a challenging year in international politics and so a challenging year for QCEA.

They will be stepping up the work on anti-migrant political discourse, and developing a multilingual pamphlet which will be distributed among migrants, police and security forces and NGOs to build awareness of what European law says on the subject of police violence. The idea is to help new arrivals to better understand their rights and for officials to better understand their responsibilities.

Over 50% of their income comes from donations, and they receive no money from the European institutions, meaning they can speak truth to power without fear or favour.

For more information See <http://www.qcea.org/>



**TRAIDCRAFT**  
Fighting poverty through trade

There will be no Traidcraft stall at Meeting in February as we have group bookings most weekends. Do get in touch if you're passing the Dell House (2 Green Lane, Malvern Wells) and would like to buy anything.

Don't forget there is a Fairtrade stall at the Refresh café, St Mary, Sherrards Green Road, Pickersleigh, WR14 2EE. This community Cafe runs on Monday mornings between 9.30am and noon during school term-time. As well as refreshments they offer free internet access, free printing service for forms, labels or other online documents and a nearly new shop with a range of men's, women's and children's clothing; books & DVDs; household goods. Fairtrade goods will be available between 09.15 & 11.00 while the Cafe is open

## **Week of Prayer for Christian Unity:**

### **News from the Head of Peace Programmes and Faith Relations, Quakers in Britain**

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity in January was marked across member churches of Churches Together in Britain and Ireland. In Dorchester one of the high Anglican churches had a short service on the theme of “justice” which was largely reflective but also challenging. Participants shared stories about how they struggled to apply their understanding of justice to everyday life, and how it related to their campaigning and action.

Following a period of silence the event ended with a prayer taken from Methodism:

O Lord, give us the strength and will to –  
Do all the good we can  
By all the means we can  
In all the ways we can,  
In all the places we can  
At all the times we can,  
To all the people we can,  
As long as ever we can. Amen.

### **Events organised by British Yearly Meeting – help them with feedback**

Have you attended a BYM event in the past few years? Please tell them about your experience of any BYM events you have attended, or tell us why you haven't been able to attend. BYM hosts regular events for Friends to develop our thinking, encourage action on a variety of Quaker concerns and share experience among role holders. Your feedback will help them to develop events that are both relevant and accessible.

Please visit <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/bym-events-feedback>

to complete a short survey that should take no longer than 15 minutes. The survey will close on Monday 4 March 2019.

**Lebury Quakers** extend a warm welcome to any Friends from neighbouring Meetings who could come and join them occasionally for Meeting for Worship on the first and third Sundays of the Month. They meet at the Burgage Hall, Church Lane, at 11.00am for an hour followed by tea and coffee.

### **Quaker Centre in France**

The Maison Quaker belongs to France Yearly Meeting. It is in the village of Congénies in the Languedoc region of the south of France. In 2019 they are holding a writing retreat, a music week and two artists retreats. See <http://www.maison-quaker-congenies.org/events>

**Repair café:** <http://www.malvernhillrepaircafe.co.uk/>

The team are really looking forward to repairing your broken or tired items. We will attempt to repair ANYTHING, and usually succeed!

Remember, whilst repairs are undertaken without charge, we will always welcome a contribution to help us cover our overheads.

Oh, and the home made cakes we have on offer are simply DELICIOUS !!!