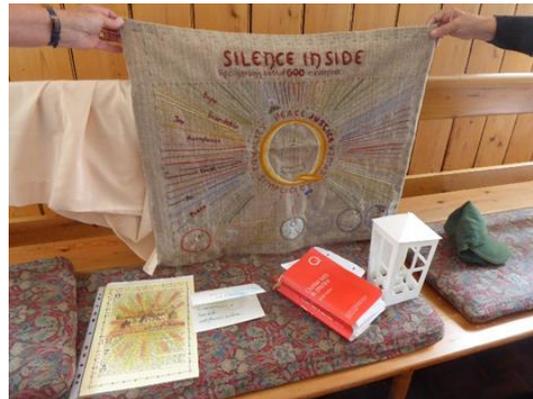




# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter



February 2020

Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Every Sunday	9.30 to 10.00	Silent Worship. For more information contact Dick Stockford 07889752169
Sun 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Sat 8 <sup>th</sup>	1 – 3 pm	<b>Malvern Welcomes Bring and Share Lunch and Get Together</b> at Malvern Vale Community Centre. You need to book - Phone Sue Wolfendale 01684 562804
Sun 9 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sundays)	2.45 – 3.30 pm	<b>Little Friends Meetings</b> All welcome but activities aimed at under-8s. Finishing with drinks & cake.
Thur 13 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	6.00–7.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b> 30 minutes MfW followed by drinks
Sat 15 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b> See below
Sun 16 <sup>th</sup>	12.00	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b> after Meeting for Worship Followed by <b>Shared lunch</b> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday) Soup or a hot dish to be provided, please bring other contributions. Co-ordinated by Judith Badman or Liz Flanagan
Mon 17 <sup>th</sup>	7.30 pm	<b>Christians Against Poverty Prayer Meeting</b> St. Andrews Church, Poolbrook – All Welcome
Sat 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8am – 11am	<b>Sustainability Online Conference with Friends worldwide</b> Join this to gather the collective Quaker voice on sustainability. There will be time for worship sharing. Register on <a href="http://fwcc.world/sustainability/conference2020/register">http://fwcc.world/sustainability/conference2020/register</a>
Sun 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>6.45 – 9 pm</b>	<b>Earth Vigil 6.45 to 7.30 pm &amp; vegan meal 7.30 to 9 pm</b> See below. Contact: <a href="mailto:eoin.mccarthy6@icloud.com">eoin.mccarthy6@icloud.com</a>
Tue 25 <sup>th</sup>	2.30	<b>Preparation for World Day of Prayer</b> At Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church. See below
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> March	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>

If you are not on the e-mail list and would like to be, or have changed your e-mail, please contact me. Contributions to me for the next Newsletter by Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb  
Elizabeth Rolph [Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk)

## Did you Know..

.... that the dates and News Sheets are put on our Meeting website every month. So if it gets lost in your sea of e-mails, see <http://www.malvernquakers.org.uk/>

## Special Collection for February



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 Malvern and District branch of the charity needs to raise funds each year to cover the costs of children staying with host families to give them a chance to live in a "clean" environment and eat uncontaminated foods for a month.

## Earth Vigil

## Eoin McCarthy

Necessary steps to keep the global temperature rise below 2 degrees are not being taken. Many people are distressed by this, and often feel alone in their distress. This vigil is the opportunity for those concerned to come together and uphold each other in this concern. Using a speaking stone, people will be able to share their personal truths about climate change.

The Earth Vigil, using speaking stone and silences will start at 6.45 pm and finish at 7.30. A vegan meal will then be shared. All are welcome for part or all of the evening. The event is free to attend, and donations of food or money will be welcome.

(Note change in timing from usual, this month only)

## Extinction Rebellion (XR)

## Melanie Jameson

It was recently brought to my attention that many early Quakers believed that the world was about to end (in 1666) and this gave their ministry much of its urgency. We now have a similarly urgent situation as climate scientists have declared that we only have around twelve years to turn round the headlong rush to a climate catastrophe. It is for this reason that I have felt the need to make contact with XR.

XR meets most Thursdays (6.45 for 7pm) in our Meeting House, frequently expressing their gratitude for this spiritual space. As we consider what the next mass mobilisation will look like there is plenty to do locally. Malvern Hills District Council, who declared a climate emergency last July, have formulated a Zero Carbon Reduction Plan, passed unanimously on Jan 21st, whereas Worcester City Council lags behind.

For those (like me) unable to participate in prolonged 'national' actions, there are working groups to join including arts, finance, 'wellness', outreach. Induction training, to bring people up to speed with how XR operates, are regularly offered – there are two early in February at the Buddhist Centre: Tues 4th, 7-9 and Sat 8th, 3-5. Study groups are also held.

We are a friendly bunch, very like Quakers in our mutual respect and motivation, so do come along and see what we are up to. Further details on <https://xrmalvern.org.uk/>

**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.



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

**Jill Etheridge**

This was held, as usual, for eight days in January, with Malvern Quakers' turn to host being on Wednesday 22nd at 6.30pm. The week's theme was 'Unusual Kindness', and our day, day 5, had the title 'Keep your strength up'.

After seven of us had assembled Elizabeth Rolph welcomed our visitors, then one of our Elders, Liz Flanagan, gave the suggested short bible reading from Acts of the Apostles, where St. Paul was urging his hearers to eat something, after fourteen days without food. The reflection which followed in the booklet was written by someone describing their experience of losing appetite and hair during chemotherapy treatment, then there was a short prayer. After this we all partook of the simple bread, spread and hummus that Elizabeth had made. Once we had eaten 'mindfully' and chatted a little, we held about half an hour of largely silent worship, during which two people felt moved to speak briefly, including one of the visitors. We may have been few who gathered, but I for one found this moving and well worthwhile.

## **'Silence Inside' at Long Lartin**

**Melanie Jameson**

This worshipping group has now celebrated five years, with numbers steadily growing from all sectors of the prison (main stream, vulnerable prisoners, occasionally from healthcare and the segregation unit). This is one of the few settings where men from the different areas of the prison can mix freely. This in itself has helped to foster understanding and break down barriers.

Unfortunately the Group has lost both its Elder and Overseer. Guy (our Elder) died in hospital but had his final wishes granted: a notice in the Friend and memorial service at Evesham Meeting House which was well attended by family, Friends and prison healthcare. Our Overseer, who I got to know better while I undertook the role of Quaker visitor (pre-membership) has transferred out and is now undertaking a challenging journey in a therapeutic unit. The deep conversation with him confirmed my experience of prisoners as largely traumatised from childhood, disadvantaged and marginalised.

Although several members are growing in spiritual awareness there is no-one presently able to take on the Elder and Overseer roles. Interestingly, members of the meeting often express their thoughts in poetry, either composed on the spot or written specially for our gathering. Given the abnormality of the situation – around ten people who are confined to a bleak regime with freedom a distant possibility and three or four visitors who can just walk away and continue their everyday lives – it is surprising how normal it feels.

The 'Silence Inside' Quaker Tapestry panel is coming on well, with the central candle flame linking, past outlines of regular attenders, to the sentiments that the meeting engenders. It was designed by Guy, who had skills as an artist and calligrapher. See front picture.

I am currently wondering if I'll be temporarily barred from Long Lartin while my (overdue) security clearance is renewed.

**WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2020**

Women, men and children of all ages are called to 'Rise, take your mat and walk'; to join this day of prayer, formerly known as Women's World Day of Prayer. All are invited to the Tuesday Afternoon Fellowship at Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February at 2.30pm to see and hear a power-point presentation on this year's theme. This is in preparation for the day itself, Friday 6<sup>th</sup> March, when services will be held at 2.00pm in St Leonard's, Newland, (WR13 5AX) and at 7.30pm in St Joseph's RC Church, Newtown Road, (WR14 1PF)

The Day of Prayer is celebrated in over 170 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 more than 36 hours later.



## Quakers in Britain

### Major conference on Christian and spiritual peacemaking

Saturday 25 April 2020, Maria Fidelis Catholic School, London

The Network of Christian Peace Organisations, of which Quaker Peace and Social Witness is an active member, is holding a major conference on Christian and spiritual peacemaking. The conference, whose provisional title is "Prophets and Reconcilers", will take place on Saturday 25 April at the Maria Fidelis Catholic School in London. Local and area meetings are encouraged to send delegations.

Please contact the Clerks if you are interested in either of these - your expenses will be paid.

### News of Rovia Owachira

**Betty Hudson**

Our Meeting supports her through Special Collections, via Farmers Overseas Action Group (FOAG). She plans to continue her studies at the local commercial college to get a Diploma, starting in August. She has sent photographs of her family which includes several cousins who are cared for by Rovia's mother as their parents have died of AIDS.



**Community Action** is urgently appealing for more volunteers in order to operate all its services. If you have time to offer help as a driver or can contribute to other activities please contact them on 01684 892381 or call in at 28-30 Belle Vue Terrace.

[www.communityaction.org.uk](http://www.communityaction.org.uk)



**Thanks from Malvern Foodbank – See separate attachment**

There is a box under the Clerks table in the Hall and there are regular updates with items required. If you would like to receive this please e-mail [Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk)