



Malvern Quakers

Newsletter

January - February 2011



The magic of frost:
Winter around
Malvern

Photos by
Sarah Collopy and Peter Thomas

Malvern Friends Meeting House 1 Orchard Road Malvern WR14 3DA

Email: malvern@wsq.org.uk Website: www.quaker.org.uk

All Welcome at Meetings for Worship:

Every Sunday at 10.30am

Third Thursdays 12.00 noon (followed by bring-your-own lunch)

All events are held at Malvern Friends Meeting House unless stated otherwise. During bad weather, please check if an event is going ahead by calling 01684 892482.

Sunday 9 January 12.00
(Postponed from 1 December).

The Hows and Whys of Quaker Meetings

Bring your own lunch following MfW and take part in an exploration and discussion of Quaker methods and practices, led by Elders and Overseers.

Saturday 15 January 4.00-7.00pm

New Year Social Gathering

Bring food (that doesn't need cooking or heating) and, if you wish, a favourite reading, entertainment or party piece

Tuesday 18 - Tuesday 25 January
Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
See panel on right

Thursday 20 January 12.00

Mid-week Meeting for Worship

Followed by bring your own lunch

Sunday 12 February 12.00

Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)

Thursday 17 February 12.00

Mid-week Meeting for Worship

Followed by bring your own lunch

Looking ahead:

Sunday 12 March 12.00

Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

18-25 January

Theme: 'All things in common'

Tuesday 18 January 7.30-8.30am

'Prayer on the Hills'

Meet in the Beacon Car Park

Tuesday 18 January 7.45pm

Somers Park Methodist Church

Ladies Evening

Speaker – Reverend Jennifer Whittaker

Wednesday 19 January 7.15pm

Somers Park Methodist Church

Unity Games Evening

Friday 21 January 10.30am

United Reformed Church Malvern Link

Shoppers' Service and Led Prayer Vigil

Sunday 23 January 6.30pm

Abbey Road Baptist Church

Service for Unity

See 'Churches Together', next page

Tuesday 25 January 7.45pm

St James, West Malvern

Prayer and Praise Evening

Weekday Lunchtimes 12.00

Lyttelton Well Prayer Room

Led Prayer Meeting

Lent Talks

Monday 21 March at Malvern Priory;

Tuesday 29 March at Elim International Centre,

Wednesday 6 April at Malvern Priory; and

Thursday 14 April at Elim International Centre.

The theme is 'The Moral Maze in Medical Ethics'. Refreshments are served at 7.15pm, followed by the talks at 7.45pm

Elders, Overseers and Others

A reminder of who to speak to about what in Malvern Quakers

Elders

Richard Bartholomew

Jill Etheridge

Elizabeth Remfry

Overseers

Melanie Jameson

Cally Law

Betty Hudson

David Simmons

Clerk Paul Wyatt

Assistant Clerk Sarah Colloby

Lettings Clerk Mary Callaway

Treasurer Jill Etheridge



Cartoon by Viv Quillin

Tuesday 11 January 7.30pm.

St. Andrews's Methodist Church, Pump Street, Worcester

Worcester-Palestine Friendship presents *Little Town of Bethlehem*.

This film tells how three men risked everything to work for peace in Israel-Palestine. One is an Israeli Jew, the other two Palestinians, one Muslim, one Christian.

Details from Colin & Lorna Archer, 01905 423402

Saturday 29 January 7.30pm

Lyttelton Well Coffee House

Burns Night Candlelight Supper.

Tickets £12 from Lyttelton Well.

Details from Joseph Sturge.

Quaker Garden Update

Melanie Jameson writes:

The Quaker Garden is potential waiting to be realised – and how it develops depends on us. In the meantime there are things to be attended to:

- one of the four seats is missing because the volunteer workers found they had run out of the stones that stack to form the seat by fitting into a wire cage, topped with a wooden block.
- the arches have been removed because they had not been secured deeply enough – we need to decide what we wish to do about this
- arrangements must be confirmed for weeding and maintaining the garden
- we must start thinking about how we wish to celebrate the garden in our official opening event
- a plaque is needed to explain the link with Quakers. A suggested form of words follows:

The Quaker Meeting Place Garden 2010

This garden is a partnership between Quakers, who believe that we are all equal and worthwhile, and Transition Malvern Hills, who promote respect for the earth and a sustainable community. We invite you to enjoy a moment's contemplation.

Designer Matt Jackman

Churches Together

The **Unity Service for Churches Together in Malvern** this year is being held on Sunday 23 January, 6.30pm at Abbey Road Baptist Church and Penny Vere will again be overseeing a Unity Choir. This choir is open to all who enjoy singing and there will be two rehearsals on Wednesday 12 January and Thursday 20 January at 7.30pm. Please note that although the service is at the Abbey Road Baptist Church, the rehearsals will be at Lansdowne Methodist Church.

Contact Penny Vere 01684 578222 or email penny.ver@btinternet.com for further details.

Charity collections 2011

The next few Meeting charity collections will be as follows:

January: Shelter

*February: Malvern Hills Homeless
Young Adult Trust*

March: Chernobyl Children's Life Line

If you would like to suggest a worthy cause for a future collection, be it local, national or global, please speak to the Clerk, Paul Wyatt, or an Elder/Overseer.

Chernobyl Children's Life Line

Chernobyl Children's Life Line is a charity which brings children affected by the continuing impact of the Chernobyl nuclear accident in Belarus to this country for recuperative breaks of up to four weeks. The Malvern and District link group would like to hear from anyone willing to be a host family for this year's visitors from 15 June.

Please contact Dorothy and Jim Knights on 01684 561358

The Newsletter

The newsletter group are pleased to have the assistance of Peter Thomas, who will be providing some much-needed graphic design and electronic distribution experience. Hopefully this means that those who opted for receiving the newsletter via email will no longer have difficulty in opening the document – it will now be sent to you as a pdf file. Thanks for your patience during some of the teething problems and please let us know if you would now like to be part of the paper-free group of recipients.

Please ensure that any items of news, diary dates or things to share for the March/April newsletter are given to Cally Law, Mary Callaway or Sarah Colloby, placed in the brown envelope on the noticeboard or emailed to scolloby@yahoo.co.uk before 10 February. If you are contributing creative writing, photography or artwork, please provide the name of the author/artist so that they may receive due credit.



Renewable Energy

Members were recently reminded of the importance of renewable energy, which includes photovoltaic electricity (PV), to capture ultra violet rays and use them to generate electricity.

Under the government scheme, domestic users are able to claim from their electricity supplier if they install PV panels to an existing roof. The rate, which is index linked for 25 years, is 41.3p per unit of power generated. In addition, when you generate more electricity than you are currently using, the surplus is fed back into the grid, so you can actually see your meter going backwards!

We installed ten panels on our south-east facing roof last August and were paid £103 for six weeks use. We have also reduced our electricity bill substantially and are very happy to pass on our experience with the PV panels to anyone interested.

Des Gamlen 01684 572284

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011

Are you thinking about going to Yearly Meeting Gathering 2011, to be held at the University of Kent in Canterbury from 30 July to 6 August? Sarah Colloby would like to hear from F/friends who might like to share transport or accommodation.

Contact her on 01386 550040 or scolloby@yahoo.co.uk

Volunteer Drivers needed

Malvern Community Action need volunteer drivers to drive local people to medical appointments.

If you think you can offer this service, please contact Julie, the office manager, on 01684 892381.

Some Discoveries Made While We Were Sharing

Peter Bevan

31 October, being the fifth Sunday of the month, some of us gathered for lunch after which we spent what I can only describe as a relaxed, enjoyable and creative hour looking at photographs, listening to music and writing poems. The poems that were written did more to identify the spirituality of the pilgrimage than the 38 days it took Peter and Claire to accomplish the 800 or so kilometres of the Camino Frances in Northern Spain.

We could have visited a number of sites of special spiritual interest from Dorset to the Hebrides or we could have walked from Land's End to John O'Groats. Instead we chose to go where very few people could understand us! Like Star Trek we boldly went and wondered why! Indeed, the poem by Alice Oswald did much to confirm our suspicion that we were indeed in another world where imaginative leaps grounded our thoughts.

With thanks to all those who participated, here are the five poems (slightly modified, with apologies) which did so much to help us explore the spiritual aspects of our experience (not all is spiritual!)

Winter Meditation

Viv Quillin

I wrote this about 5 years ago and have found it a useful meditation in the darkness of winter weather and feelings since then. It's been sung and recited at a number of winter gatherings. Some people tell me they've found it helpful and one or two have said that the 'let go of hope' has not felt right for them.

Deep in the dark, deep in the dark
Let go of hope, let go of struggle.
Deep in the dark, deep in the dark
Let go of hope then you can be.

Deep in the dark, deep in the dark
Listen to stillness, listen to peace.
Deep in the dark, deep in the dark
Listen to stillness then you can see.

Starting out – birth – a journey
Empty road ahead
Make the most of it.
Discovery and ruin in equal measure
Keep on going – empty road ahead.

Keep on going
Journey towards God.
Not what we expect
Acceptance and transcendence
Steps towards heaven.

*

Poppy-strewn paths
Monasteries in valleys
Temple whose purpose has been forgotten.
Storks, oblivious of our scurrying, on their chimneys
Majestic as the towers of St James.

*

I was drawn towards the journey so much lay ahead
Through barren, empty, rural places
Together, so alone.

Beyond sore feet and weariness of heart and a shadow within;
Poppies for remembrance of that which is clean and bright
Left behind for something more ahead.

*

Over barren and fertile lands
Come remote and lonely spirits
Just emptiness of soul – our thoughts stretch out
Along the straight and windy path until
As if enfolded in a dream of poppies into restful sleep.

*

I wandered lonely as a cloud
Along a road remote
An inner journey – not aloud
An outer journey stepping out.
Drawn towards the steps of heaven
And ruins of a distant past
Discovering friendship on the way.
Peace and relaxation and the end at last.

