



From the front page of *Malvern Quakers Newsletter*, Nov – Dec 2010.  
 Rev John Johansen-Berg dedicating Malvern Churches Justice and Peace Group's Peace Pole

# Malvern Quaker Meeting Newsletter

## March 2018

### Meeting for Worship is at 10.30 every Sunday

DATE	TIME	EVENT (at the Meeting House unless otherwise stated)
Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	11.00–3.00	<b>Day of Healing: Meeting for Worship at the Dell House</b> (contact Jill Etheridge or Elizabeth Rolph)
Sun 4 <sup>th</sup> March	After MfW	<b>Meeting for Worship for Business</b>
Wed 7 <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 7 <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
Thur 8 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Thur)	6.00–7.00	<b>Monthly Evening Meeting for Worship</b>
Sat 10 <sup>th</sup>	10:30–13:00	<b>Area Meeting in Bewdley</b>
Sun 11 <sup>th</sup> (2 <sup>nd</sup> Sun)	12.00	<b>Sale of Traidcraft Fairtrade Goods</b> after Meeting for Worship. ( FT Fortnight 26 February - 11 March)
Sat 17 <sup>th</sup> (3 <sup>rd</sup> Sat)	10.00–1.00	<b>Malvern Hills Repair Café</b>
Thur 22 <sup>nd</sup>	1 – 1.30	<b>Lunchbox Talk at Great Malvern Priory:</b> Prison and reform - a contradiction in terms? Melanie Jameson Bring/eat packed lunch from 12.30.
Sun 25 <sup>th</sup>	After MfW	<b>Malvern Peaceful Schools Project</b> (see below)
Tue 27 <sup>th</sup>	7.30	<b>An Evening with Terry Waite at St James Church, Colwall</b> (see below)
Sun 1 <sup>st</sup> April		<b>Easter Sunday – No MfW for Business</b>

**Deadline for next Newsletter: Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Dates and contributions to [Newsletter@malvernlqm.org.uk](mailto:Newsletter@malvernlqm.org.uk) or phone 01684 564448**

## Special Collection: Emmaus homeless charity

Elizabeth Rolph

Emmaus is a charity which provides homeless people with a place to live and meaningful work, collecting and restoring unwanted furniture and other household goods which are then sold in Emmaus shops. This gives them the stability they need to get back on their feet. There are 29 Emmaus communities across the UK with groups working to set up more. See <https://www.emmaus.org.uk/>

### **Cancelled: 2<sup>nd</sup> to 4<sup>th</sup> March: Malvern Festival of Ideas: Conflict**

This weekend of talks, discussion and activities on the theme of Conflict has been cancelled, including the talk by Professor Mona Siddiqui at the Meeting House. Events may be rearranged, See [malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk/](http://malvernfestivalofideas.org.uk/)

## Malvern Peaceful Schools Project – Important!

Liz Flanagan

Every member and attender is invited to join us after Meeting for Worship on March 25th so that we can update you on the progress of this project. Jon and I have created a brief outline of our plans.

We are looking for the support of the whole meeting but this will come in many guises. So, please consider how you and your nearest and dearest may be party to a project which aims to bring

- inner peace, pyschological and spiritual, to school age children
- greater harmony to classrooms, families and social groups
- an awareness of peace-making practices,
- a greater knowledge of the causes of conflict in local and international settings.

We are looking for poster makers, administrators, partners in delivering this programme in schools, mentors, counsellors and spiritual advisers, resource managers, IT gurus. Yes probably You!

We are very grateful to the Mid-Wales AM Peaceful Schools project and thank them for generously sharing all their resources.

We are waiting to hear from Ellis Brooks, the peace education tutor employed by the Society of Friends, to arrange a date to come and help us launch this in the wider community. If you know anyone who might be interested please tell us.

Soup and cake will be available at the presentation.

Liz Flanagan 01684 573315 mob 07854244591

Jon Knight 01684 833063 mob 07977541252

## **Speaking of God – or not**

**Bewdley Friends' Meeting House, Saturday April 14th 2018  
A Woodbrooke-on-the-road day with Alex Wildwood**

The cost is £10.00 per person. For more information see the programme circulated with Newsletter, or contact Paul Wyatt. Please let him know if you would like to go e-mail [wsaqmclerk@gmail.com](mailto:wsaqmclerk@gmail.com)

## **An Evening with Terry Waite**

St James Church, Colwall, Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> March  
Tickets £8 (cash) inclusive of interval drink, contact Jill Etheridge  
by Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> March



Former advisor to the Archbishop of Canterbury, he negotiated the release of several hostages from Iran before being taken hostage himself, Held for four years in solitary confinement his spirit and faith was tested to the limit. The first half of the evening will be reflections on his life, followed by audience questions and opportunities to purchase his books.



**Judith Badman**

You may have noticed in the LM minutes of February that we agreed to convert a loan to the above organisation to a donation.

So what is Malvern Welcomes? A new charity, registered summer 2017, they say: "Our aim is to support the resettlement of refugees in the Malvern Hills area and to provide practical assistance and advice. We work to nurture a culture of welcome in which people fleeing violence and the horrors of war can live fulfilled and happy lives as part of the community free from poverty, discrimination and harassment."

I went to The Open Evening in early November and was very impressed by the enthusiasm of the various organisations represented there for bringing refugees to Malvern. Being new to Malvern myself I was very pleased that my new town was keen to help the much less fortunate, and that so many organisations were so enthusiastically co-operating together to help.

Check out their website at: <http://www.malvernwelcomes.org>

This is a new charity which needs a good base of supporters to persuade donors to give as costs need meeting and applications for grants could be helped by numbers!

How about helping? Join by paying just £10 per annum. Not much to carry out our Quaker beliefs of helping others if we can.

**A Malvern Welcome event coming up:**

**SPRINGBOARD TO ACTION Saturday April 14th 2018, 10:00 pm to 4:30 pm  
Lansdowne Crescent Methodist Church, Malvern**

Malvern Welcomes are working with the Home Office to bring a refugee family to safety in the Malvern area under the UK Government Full Community Sponsorship scheme. Within the next few months they hope that our community will be supporting a family.

This day is to prepare volunteers and members of our community who are likely to be involved in welcoming refugees to Malvern, so that we are aware of the challenges such families face and are generous in our response.

The event is free. You can register on this link:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/springboard-to-action-malvern-welcomes-tickets-43091955198>  
or contact Ruth (01694 891810) or Sue (01684 562804)



## **Yearly Meeting 2018: 4 - 7 May 2018, Friends House, London**

This year Yearly Meeting will be considering whether it is time to revise Quaker Faith & Practice, the book of discipline for Britain Yearly Meeting. Everyone, whether coming in person or upholding Yearly Meeting at home or in local Quaker communities is asked to help the discernment of Yearly Meeting. Details to follow.

Registration is now open. Financial help is available from the Yearly Meeting Bursary Fund. Volunteers are needed to help with the running of Yearly Meeting in many different ways, e.g. microphone stewarding and pastoral care.

See <https://www.quaker.org.uk/events/ym2018>

### **Area Meeting Residential Weekend 28-31 September      Melanie Jameson**

Planning is proceeding with our autumn residential weekend at the Pioneer Centre, Cleobury Mortimer, mentioned in the last edition of the newsletter.

We have now drawn up a list of potential activities; these together with further information and a booking form will be confirmed and circulated as a flyer after our next planning meeting on March 10th.

For now, we welcome expressions of interest. The provisional costings are: £127 from Friday dinner to Sunday lunch. Day visit with 2 meals £14.50. No doubt AM will offer bursaries.

### **FOAG Update: Rovia Ochirwa**

**Betty Hudson**

Rovia is a Disabled Ugandan girl, in a wheelchair. Malvern Friends' Meeting agreed to support her education through our annual collection for FOAG, with some generous extra donations.

Following Rovia's satisfactory "O" level results she entered the 6<sup>th</sup> form at Queen Elizabeth High School for Girls at Kidetok in 2017. Unfortunately she became very ill due to insanitary conditions at the home where she was boarded out. She then spent 3 weeks in hospital and some of the money which we had donated had to be used for hospital fees, treatment and care, overseen by Sister Margaret Awar who is now in charge at St Francis Rehabilitation Centre, near Soroti - which is the Home where Rovia received her original surgical treatment and subsequent care and where she frequently went in holiday times. Sr. Margaret looked after Rovia at St Francis but decided to send her home to her mother in Nebbi for her recovery - Nebbi is a day's drive from Soroti, in Arua, near the Congo border.

My friend, Sister Sophie Awar, who used to be in charge of St Francis Rehab Centre but is now responsible for about 100 Sisters in the Diocese of Soroti and Tororo, looking after their welfare, spiritual development and their appointments, comes from Nebbi and was recently there on leave with her family. She has sent me an e-mail about Rovia.

Rovia would like to enrol at Uganda College of Commerce at Pakwach for an Accounts course, starting in March. Enrolment and Fees for the 1<sup>st</sup> Semester will cost about £300 and as FOAG holds £452 in our name for Rovia, that is no problem, once the Treasurer is assured that payment arrangements are satisfactory. The next Semester will cost about £200 and if all goes well Rovia will probably wish to continue for another 2 years for a Diploma.

My friend Jane Sturdy, who oversees "Educational Sponsorship" on behalf of FOAG is making a visit to Uganda in Feb 2018, so she will organise the payment arrangements then.

## Advices and Queries 14

Are your meetings for church affairs held in a spirit of worship and in dependence on the guidance of God? Remember that we do not seek a majority decision nor even consensus. As we wait patiently for divine guidance our experience is that the right way will open and we shall be led into unity.



## Woodbrooke Course: Being a Quaker Clerk

Jill Etheridge and Elizabeth Rolph attended this course in early February. Led by Michael Hutchinson (Assistant Recording Clerk for 22 years) and Linda Craig it was an excellent mixture of listening, talking in smaller groups and practical exercises. There were twenty of us, nearly all just embarking on being Clerks.

Included in the handbook were Advices and Queries for Meetings for Worship for Business., some for all, some for clerks and some for the rest of the Meeting. You may see more of these in future newsletters!

- Before and during business Meetings, think with affection about each member of your meeting and remember the positive gifts that they bring. Hold them and your faith community in the Light.
- Remember that personal discipline on the part of all present is needed for the right holding of business Meetings.

I hadn't been to Woodbrooke for many years, and it was good to be there. It's a great place with a good atmosphere, comfortable and good food. Don't forget you don't need to be on a course to stay there.

## Report on Meeting for Sufferings

**Andrew Jameson**

This meeting was on 3 February, in London. See also the news report in *The Friend* in the week following an MfS meeting, this usually supplies the background to proceedings at MfS.

Sustainability. Following on from the formal Canterbury Commitment at YMG in 2011, which applies to all Quaker institutions, meetings and members, MfS spent most of the morning reviewing a report on the implementation of that commitment. Implementation is headed by the Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) Sustainability Group, set up in 2014. This group presented its report after 3 years of work. Its terms of reference are now being reviewed.

Lis Burch, Clerk to the Sustainability Group, spoke to the report. The report describes the background and spiritual base underlying the concern, and the involvement of central committees. All BYM committees now include the Commitment in their terms of reference. Lis emphasised the need for all Friends to "live by Quaker discipline". She quoted G K Chesterton

in *The Ballad of the White Horse*: “I tell you naught for your comfort, Yea, naught for your desire, Save that the sky grows darker yet, And the sea rises higher”.

While staff at Friends House, and some groups are doing a lot, this is not enough. More work needs doing at a local level. Some Friends and Meetings are doing a lot, but others are engaging only minimally. Is this the best we can be? she asked. Friends are encouraged “to understand and live by Quaker discipline”, and urged to “do this joyfully and spend more time in worship and honest searching”.

*The Friend* reports on comments by members of MfS following on from Lis Burch’s report.

#### Central decision-making processes in Britain Yearly Meeting

At the MfS meeting of 3 June 2017 Kingston & Wandsworth AM raised a concern that MfS was not fulfilling its role in setting priorities for the work of BYM. Since then, in reply, MfS Clerks have stated that Arrangements Group has started to introduce some changes. “Sufferings has checked what it does against its functions, and we are aware of and review what we do”. The MfS Handbook now includes further information, and the residential MfS meeting later this year allows time for further discussion, “when we shall hear from all the central committees”. A Friend from Kingston & Wandsworth commented (at this latest meeting 3 February) that ‘reviewing’ still was not the same as ‘planning forward’.

Plans are nearly ready for Yearly Meeting 2018 at Friends House on 4-7 May.

Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020 will be at the University of Bath from 1-8 August. We shall have the magnificent Chancellor’s Building, the new refectory and a tented encampment which some of us may remember from our previous YMG at Bath.

See also: [www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/meeting-for-sufferings/papers-and-minutes) or contact: [a.jameson2@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:a.jameson2@dsl.pipex.com) for more info.



### **Sign up to new British Yearly Meeting (BYM) e-newsletter**

*Quake!* is the new monthly email update on the work of BYM and Quakers in Britain. It will include discussion and exploration of Quaker life and worship, insights into faith-based activism, and links to new publications as well as the latest news, events and public statements from BYM. This newsletter replaces the Quaker Life Network monthly email and aims to provide an essential monthly digest of the best of our digital content.

**Sign up to *Quake!* at: <http://bit.ly/quakemail>**

### **Malvern Meeting Newsletter**

**Elizabeth Rolph**

Prompted by the handover from Andrew Jameson to Jill Etheridge and me, we’ve done a bit of research about the history of the Newsletter.

The first Newsletter we have found is dated May 2002. Put together by Richard Bartholomew it starts:

*Feedback for Friends on the trial edition of the Newsletter was that it would be good to have as a regular part of the Meeting’s life, and it should concentrate on news and forthcoming event.*

We don’t have any more of the ones Richard put together, which was “Bartholomew-centric in that I was the originator, produced all/most of the material, laid it out in an inept way and printed off whatever number of copies. I’m not sure I knew how to e-mail copies out then or that m/any Quakers had a computer on which to receive an e-mail.”

I understand that Peter Bevan also put some newsletters together, and then presumably there was a gap, because the Winter 2011/12 edition states:

*Malvern Quaker Newsletter started in autumn 2010. This issue is the last to be edited by Sarah Colloby. Since it started in Autumn 2010, MQN has contributed to building a sense of community in Meeting, and what a valuable form of outreach it has also proved to be. This is mainly due to Sarah having the original idea of producing a newsletter and being prepared to put time and energy into its creation.*

*We haven't yet found a permanent replacement for Sarah but we have approached a couple of people who may be interested, and we may have an editorial team of people taking it in turns to edit MQN. In the meantime Melanie and Andrew Jameson have agreed to receive articles for the next edition. We have already had a gap in publication this November, and we have decided to switch from bimonthly to quarterly.*

The last quarterly Newsletter was spring 2014. It then became the monthly News Sheet, with the first edition being September 2014, put together by Melanie Jameson and Cally Law, then just Melanie. I took over in January 2017. Little did I know that when I renamed it the Newsletter in September that it had gone full circle.

All the Newsletters from 2010 are on our website. If anyone has any earlier ones I'd be pleased to add them to the archives.

## Summer Outing with Hereford Wellbeing Wisdom Group

Westonbury Mill Water gardens, Pembridge, Herefordshire HR6 9HZ  
Sunday 15th July 2018 at 1.30pm until 5pm



These beautiful gardens were created by Richard Pim 18 years ago and are truly a labour of love – a magical place with much to explore. The group discounted price is £10 which includes an amazing cream tea (Gluten/dairy free options available please state upon booking ticket). Places are limited, so buy your tickets soon - from Jon Critoph 01684 540 372 or 07766 828 072 or email: [wellbeingwisdomworkshops@gmail.com](mailto:wellbeingwisdomworkshops@gmail.com)

## Shopping without Plastic Bags?

Andrew Jameson

David Attenborough's television series The Blue Planet has had great success recently in drawing attention to the menace of waste plastic in our rivers and seas.

What can we do to lessen our use of, and dependence on, plastics? Here are a few modest proposals.

1. **Natural Choice**, Barnards Green is a traditional family business, vegetables and fruit are all in "loose" displays, with **paper bags** available. Free home delivery. 01684 567467.
2. **The Cheese Board** (opposite Natural Choice) has local English wines and ciders as well as cheese and cooked meats. Cheese is cut to order and wrapped **in paper**.
3. **Green Link**, by the entrance to Waitrose in Malvern, has large containers of Ecover washing up and laundry liquid etc, bring along your Ecover bottle and **refill it**. 01684 576266.
4. **Cotteswold Dairy**, based in Tewkesbury and the Welsh Marches, is an independent family owned firm. Cotteswold offer a traditional doorstep delivery in Malvern using **glass bottles** which are collected and re-used daily. <http://www.cotteswold-dairy.co.uk/>. 01684 298959.