



Rev John Johansen-Berg dedicating Malvern Churches Justice and Peace Group's Peace Pole in front of the Meeting House on September 21st 2010.
Photograph: Philip Wetherall

Malvern Quakers

Newsletter

November-December 2010

Malvern Friends Meeting House
1, Orchard Road, Malvern WR14 3DA
Email: Malvern@wsq.org.uk
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)**

DIARY

- Nov 18th** **12-12.40** Mid-week Meeting for Worship
Bring a picnic lunch and stay afterwards if you wish.
Call 01684 560265
- Nov 20th** **7.30** Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, Pershore Abbey
In aid of FOAG. The programme includes Fantasia on
a theme of Thomas Tallis by Vaughan Williams and
Bruckner's 4th Symphony "Romantic"
Tickets £12.50, call 01905 831276.
See the Noticeboard for more details on the work of
FOAG
- Dec 1st** **7.30** The Hows and Whys of Quaker Meetings
An exploration and discussion about the nature,
traditions and practices of our meetings for worship,
community and business matters. Elders and
Overseers will lead this open evening for all Friends,
Attenders or enquirers who would like to understand
more and ask questions about Quaker Meetings.
- Dec 5th** **12.00** Preparative Meeting for Church Affairs (PM)
Malvern Friends Meeting House
- Dec 11th** **10.30** Area Meeting
Bewdley Friends Meeting House

If you'd like to let Malvern Friends know of an event or maybe some news of another organisation, please send details to Sarah Colloby before the 10th of the month preceding publication.

ie. December 10th for Jan/Feb 2011, February 10th for March/April 2011

You may email information to scolloby@yahoo.co.uk, place it in the envelope on the Meeting House noticeboard or hand it to Sarah, Cally Law or Mary Callaway.

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

10 ways to better judgment

Know what you want

Get good information

Separate facts from fiction

Don't be unsettled by uncertainty

Be led by the outcome, not your tastes

Keep an open mind

Find the lessons in your mistakes

Learn from others

Empathize

Remember: you're in control

Eoin McCarthy

NOTICEBOARD

Betty Hudson has provided some information about the Farmers' Overseas Action Group, which was the beneficiary of the October charity collection:

In the early 1980's a group of Worcestershire farmers were alarmed by reports of starvation in Africa and wondered if they could use their farming experience to help alleviate the situation. After meeting a Ugandan doctor and an exploratory visit to Uganda, FOAG was formed.

It now works with twelve projects, all Ugandan-led. Two Agricultural Development Schemes help Ugandan farmers who have requested oxen and ploughs, both sourced within Uganda and paid for in instalments thus enabling more families to benefit from the scheme. Another Agricultural scheme requested money to build grain silos to enable grain to be held over from one harvest to the next thus preventing harvest-time sales at low prices with the inevitable need for local communities to have to buy in food later on at inflated prices.

FOAG supports three Rehabilitation Homes for disabled children. These homes find the children at out-reach clinics, bring them into the homes and carry out corrective surgery with the necessary before and after care, education and vocational training (dressmaking, carpentry and bakery). This allows them to return to their home communities as useful and confident members of society. Other supported projects include an Occupational Therapy Unit which cares for and educates children with learning disabilities, a school for children with physical disabilities and a unit for mostly blind children at a State Primary school.

FOAG also helps two rural Hospitals, including a school of nursing where three local nurses are sponsored through their training.

FOAG members visit the projects each year to discuss further development - this is at their own expense. All donations go directly to the projects as Associate Members' subscriptions cover running costs, which are kept very low.

May I suggest that you consider simplifying your Christmas giving by a gift through FOAG for a project of your choice!

And please consider coming to FOAG's next fundraising event, a Symphony Concert on Saturday 20th November in Pershore Abbey at 7.30pm. Tickets cost £12.50 and are available from FOAG, Ridgeway Farm, Powick WR2 4SN, (tel 01905 831276) or on the door.

Having attended the last two FOAG concerts featuring Cheltenham Symphony Orchestra, I can assure Friends that they're in for a real treat. Wrap up warm though! Ed.

Anthropologists have discovered that there is an island people who each year cull their elders through the application of low temperatures. It is thought that in the past that this culture may have actually respected their elders for their wisdom and life experience, but somehow and at some time before living memory recalls the 'usefulness' of 'non-productive' parts of the population was apparently brought into question.

The result of this sad, but curious practice is that upwards of 20,000 elders are left exposed to winter conditions and end up dead before their time. In the winter of 2008-2009 this total soared to 37,600 and is thought will be perhaps up to 50,000 for the winter just past.

The island in question? England & Wales actually, so the figures with Scotland added in will be even higher. What can you do about it? Write to our cost-cutting government of course, but as the Nazarene said "Love your neighbour **as** yourself" therefore make sure that you do not add yourself to these statistics.

How to do that? Contact a government-backed organisation called Warmfront who have two schemes:

- a) Grants up to £3500 to install/repair heating systems and insulation for people on a range of benefits including Pension Credit, Council Tax & Housing Benefit and disability benefits like Disability Living & Attendance Allowance, or
- b) Heating rebate Scheme of £300 for any over-60 not eligible for the full grant

How to make contact? If you have an internet connection go to <http://www.warmfront.co.uk/> otherwise ring 0800 316 2805.

They are very helpful and even if you don't currently receive one of these qualifying benefits (and there are quite a few of them) they will actively help you to claim any due to you, so will increase your income PLUS help you to claim the £3500 grant. If you are just over the hill like me but still working, you can still get your £300 that helped put in my log-burner or flush out the central heating (one of my sisters) or have a new fuel oil tank installed (another of my sisters).

Stay warm and get some of your taxes back this way, and if you get busy it will all be sorted out before the cold weather comes again.

Richard Bartholomew

Thanks go to the Vital Spark choir whose rousing songs raised £104.20 at a concert in the Meeting House on October 13th in aid of Chris Dyer's voluntary health care project in Tanzania. Further donations are welcomed as there are some costs still to be met from the money that was made.

Chris's wife Jan gave the audience a brief update on his work so far and we look forward to hearing more from them both as the mission progresses.

THE BACK PAGE

HOWEVER CONVINCED YOU ARE OF
THE RIGHTNESS AND THE TRUTHS
OF YOUR VIEWS, LOOK ON THEM AS
THE ACTIONS AND VIEWS OF
SOMEONE ELSE AND REPHRASE
THEM ACCORDINGLY.

ROGER SCRUTON
CONTRIBUTED BY EOIN MCCARTHY

Pole by pole we're building
our new world of peace
every person's action
helping our release.
When we work together
we can bring for all
justice, peace and freedom;
love, our constant call.

Pole by pole we measure
progress made for peace,
working hard for justice,
making wars to cease.
As we stand united,
We're inspired to raise
poles in every nation;
peace for all our days

(c) John Johansen-Berg



Come regularly to meeting for worship even when you are angry, depressed, tired or spiritually cold. In the silence ask for and accept the prayerful support of others joined with you in worship. Try to find a spiritual wholeness which encompasses suffering as well as thankfulness and joy. Prayer, springing from a deep place in the heart, may bring healing and unity as nothing else can. Let meeting for worship nourish your whole life.

Advices and Queries number 10

Helen Chiverton writes

"I have had a wonderful experience, travelling in Canada for a month this year, learning so much about First Nations people. But home again, struggling to rebalance and focus on my journey here, I rediscovered Max Ehrmann's poem 'Desiderata' (things to be desired). Along with Advices and Queries, in particular number 10, I have found it most helpful."

Go placidly amidst the noise and haste
and remember what peace there may be in
silence.

As far as possible without surrender be
on good terms with all persons.

Speak your truth quietly and clearly;
and listen to others, even the dull and
ignorant; they too have their story.

Avoid loud and aggressive persons, they
are vexatious to the spirit.

If you compare yourself with others, you
may become bitter or vain, for always
there will be greater and lesser persons
than yourself.

Enjoy your achievements as well as your
plans.

Exercise caution in your business
affairs; for the world is full of
trickery.

But let this not blind you to what
virtue there is; many persons strive for
high ideals; and everywhere life is full
of heroism.

Be yourself. Especially, do not feign
affection.

Neither be cynical about love; for in
the face of all aridity and
disenchantment it is perennial as the
grass.

Take kindly the counsel of the years,
gracefully surrendering the things of
youth.

Nurture strength of spirit to shield you
in sudden misfortune.

But do not distress yourself with
imaginings. Many fears are born of
fatigue and loneliness.

Beyond a wholesome discipline, be gentle
with yourself.

You are a child of the universe, no less
than the trees and the stars; you have a
right to be here.

And whether or not it is clear to you,
no doubt the universe is unfolding as it
should.

Therefore be at peace with God, whatever
you conceive Him to be, and whatever
your labours and aspirations, in the
noisy confusion of life, keep peace in
your soul.

With all its sham, drudgery and broken
dreams, it is still a beautiful world.

Be cheerful

Strive to be happy

'Desiderata'
Max Ehrmann