

Malvern Quaker Meeting



Newsletter November 2022

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 25th November.

Past editions of the Newsletter are on our Meeting website www.malvernquakers.org.uk.

If you are not on the Meeting's email list and would like to be, or have changed your email, please contact clerks@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk

APE Welcomes Peace Educators

Liz Flanagan

On November 19th we have invited any interested Quaker Peace Educators to join us for the day of sharing and exploring. I am asking for support from our Meeting in order to make this a truly special get together.

I would appreciate some friends to welcome our new friends from near and far, to serve hot drinks on arrival, to make drinks at lunch time, and to provide tea and cakes mid-afternoon. If we have enough offers of beds (3 so far) we will invite our visitors, and their hosts, to join us for a hot supper at 6 pm in the Meeting House.

It will be wonderful to be able to offer bed and breakfast to anyone travelling. It would give them an opportunity to explore Malvern, to experience our hospitality and to join us in worship.

Please let me know what you can offer. Contact me on 01684 – 573315 or 07854 244591.

Advices & Queries No 8

Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our meetings for worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us.

Quaker-run B&B gains “Green Mark” Award

Elizabeth Rolph

(as submitted to and published in the Friend)

The Dell House, run by Kevin and Elizabeth Rolph of Malvern Meeting, has been awarded the *Malvern Hills Sustainable Tourism Green Mark* for their commitment to environmental sustainability.

Since buying the 1830’s former rectory in 2014 they have invested heavily in insulation and energy reduction; implemented extensive recycling and plastic-reduction policies; local, ethical sourcing of supplies and services; innovative vegetarian and vegan breakfasts, and policies such as a discount for rail travellers. Earlier this year they became a carbon neutral business.

The extensive grounds, recovered over the last 8 years from brambles, bindweed, nettles and the like, are used by local charities and Kevin & Elizabeth open the garden through the National Garden Scheme, raising over £2,500 for nursing and benevolent charities this year.

Elizabeth and Kevin are delighted to receive this merit-based award and will continue to look for further ways in which they can run the business sustainably.

Special Collections

Richard Bartholomew

Pakistan Floods Disaster Update

As Friends will remember we decided to make our October Special Collection for the recent and ongoing Pakistan Flood Disaster Appeal, and our money will go via the Disaster Emergency Committee (DEC) Appeal.

As with many things that we see in ‘the news’ it is easy to conclude that because it is not in the headlines then it is all solved. Not So! Please read on. DEC advises that currently:

- 6 million people need help, as
- 2 million homes have been washed away or otherwise destroyed, and
- 3.6 million acres of crops have been destroyed, and 900,000 animals have been lost (both as sources of transport to respond to the emergency and as sources of nutrition), and
- 900 health facilities have been destroyed across the country from Baluchistan in the far west (against the Iranian border) to Sindh in the Indus valley in the east, because
- 5 times the expected volume of monsoon rain fell due to climate change, causing unpredictable weather events and the Himalayan glaciers melting more quickly than normal.

In your magnificent response to this appalling human tragedy, you have raised £217.70 which will be sent off this week.

Thank you for your compassionate concern and keep walking cheerfully over the world as part of your resolute response to the Inward Light.

Local Families in Need

Jill Etheridge

Throughout November we shall be collecting cash only to help local families in need to have a more joyful Christmas. Last year we collected £490, which was disbursed through the good offices of Rev. Lynne Sparks in Pickersleigh. This money helped five families, including eight children. Lynne said in her card of thanks that the kindness touched their hearts and gave them hope. One of the women said, with tears in her eyes, that 'Thank you ' Isn't enough. We don't need much imagination to realise that this year, the need will be even greater.

If it's not possible for you to get cash into the Sunday collection plate, please email Clerks.

Little Friends

Liz Flanagan

The theme for October was Loyalty and Friendship, and the story was Greyfriars Bobby.



Next Little Friends is on 6th November. Our theme will be Apples.

Churches Together, Malvern, Autumn Meeting

Jill Etheridge

Our Meeting was asked to send a representative along to Somers Park Methodist Church on the evening of October 20th, where each worshipping group was invited to give 'a three-minute presentation on the main theme of their churches current initiatives, hopes, dreams and visions.'

The flier about the meeting said it was an opportunity for touching base, looking forward, worship and fellowship together. I had never been to such an event but was pleased to see

another place of worship. We began with a couple of worship songs – one being *How Great Thou Art* – then an order of Celtic Prayer, with a lot of congregational responses.

Since the current Chair of CTM is the local Methodist Minister, he, and Becky (from St. James, West Malvern), introduced the worship and invited the representatives to come forward in turn. I always suspected that the three-minutes-each format would not be well observed, and I was right. Whilst it was interesting to hear how different congregations have adapted since the challenges of the pandemic, people didn't always keep to the brief (in both senses of the word!) about 'initiatives, hopes, dreams and visions' and instead listed most of their regular activities.

When Becky had heard several prolonged offerings, she asked her colleague if there was a 'cut-off point', which I thought was a tactful reminder; but the answer was 9.30 (i.e., a two-hour meeting). As a lady two pews in front of me remarked, not entirely *sotto voce*, 'Twenty people, three minutes each – that's already an hour!'

Oddly, though our Clerk had notified the secretary about who would attend on behalf of Quakers, the invitation to speak seemed to occur rather randomly. Then, when the Chair said, 'I think that's everyone now!' three of us either gesticulated or bobbed up. Even so I had to point out – as the last contributor – 'and the Quakers!'. I saw the clock showing 9.26pm, so – as I walked up to the lectern and microphone I said, over my shoulder, 'As you know, Quakers worship mostly in silence, but I would like to say just a few words!' This caused a good ripple of laughter; then – after referring to our four traditional Testimonies – I linked each of them with the Active Peace Education, Malvern Individuals for Peace (including the 3CDSE demonstrations), Ukrainian afternoons etc., all in three minutes flat!

Are You Paying Too Much for Your Broadband?

Richard Bartholomew

The fact is that you might be. Several members of our Meeting have their broadband and phone services by Your Coop (part of the Mid-counties Co-operative Society, and therefore not profit-making), and one has quoted as only paying £28.99 a month for broadband, phone line and all calls to landline and mobile. If that sounds a better option for you then contact [Your Co-op Broadband Checker \(yourcoop.coop\)](https://yourcoop.coop)

For those on Pension Credit, Universal Credit or Disability Benefits like Attendance Allowance they should also check if the following 'social options' on broadband & phone prices can compete with Your Coop - see [Cheaper broadband and phone packages - Ofcom](#). The Guardian has just published an article about these new social tariffs, saying how they have not been widely promoted - see [Broadband social tariffs can save you up to £200 a year | Broadband | The Guardian](#)

A few years ago, we might have thought that internet costs were to be seen as either a luxury or a geeky interest for the eccentric, but now being able to connect to the internet is really an essential service that allows people to bank, shop, keep in touch with world events, and stay in touch with loved ones - and even claim benefits. So don't pay more than you need to.