# Malvern Quaker Meeting





## Newsletter August 2025

*Items for the next issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 26th September 2025.*
*Past editions of the Newsletter are on our Meeting website www.malvernquakers.org.uk.*

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

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## Is There Anything Practical I Can Do About the Situation in Palestine?

**Richard Bartholomew**

This is a question that you are probably asking yourself as I am. Well, there are a few possibilities, but whether they are practical for us is a decision that we have to make for ourselves.

1) A couple of years ago we had the inspiring example from Ian Cave of his experience in the West Bank as a human rights observer for **Ecumenical Accompaniers Programme for Palestine & Israel EAPPI)**, whose training programme is run from Friends House. I understand that given the current situation no new observers are being allowed into the West Bank, but Ian recommended 5 things that we could do from Malvern:

a) Write to your MP about the Human Rights abuses and War Crimes being carried out against the Palestinian people.

b) Donate to **Medical Aid for Palestinians** see Medical Aid for Palestinians.

c) Understand the Context - look at the **EAPPI** website for material to really inform you of the history and how it affects the current situation see EAPPI | Quakers in Britain.

d) Choose your media wisely, and he cited **Al-Jazeera English** Breaking News, World News and Video from Al Jazeera, **972+ Magazine** a joint Israeli & Palestinian news outlet, +972 Magazine - Independent commentary and news from Israel & Palestine, and **Human Rights Watch** Real or Fake? Verifying Video Evidence in Israel and Palestine | Human Rights Watch. For my money **Channel 4 News** take great efforts to challenge those who need challenging Channel 4 News.

e) Show public solidarity which might mean attending protests, if you are able, but also taking steps to challenge examples of Anti-Semitism and Islamophobia.

2) One eminently practical and positive thing that we can do is to show support for Palestinian farmers, Christian & Muslim alike, by buying their produce. **Zaytoun** (the Arab word for olive) is a Co-operative that brings their produce to this country see Zaytoun - Ethically Sourced Fine Foods from Palestine. To buy their Olive Oil you can find it on the shelves of **Oxfam on Church Street, Malvern** or order from a wide range of goods to be delivered to your door from the **Ethical Superstore** at Ethical Superstore: Fair Trade, Organic, Vegan, Plastic Free & Eco Friendly Products

## Advices & Queries No 32

Bring into God's light those emotions, attitudes and prejudices in yourself which lie at the root of destructive conflict, acknowledging your need for forgiveness and grace. In what ways are you involved in the work of reconciliation between individuals, groups and nations?

## A Quaker Wedding at Malvern 1940

**Kate Macdonald**

I was searching on the British Newspaper Archive for something else and thought I would see whether Malvern Quakers had reached the newspapers in its collection, and I found this.


A QUAKER WEDDING AT MALVERN

Mr. David Charles Cadbury, son of the late Mr. Richard Cadbury and Mrs. A. C. Cadbury, of Lower Wick, Worcester, was married at the Friends House, Malvern, on Saturday.

The bride was Miss Marion Beatrice Pole Allsebrook, second daughter of Mr. Arthur Allsebrook and the late Mrs. Christine Evelyn Allsebrook, formerly of Rushwick Grange, near Worcester. Mr. Cadbury is assistant clerk for the Worcester District of Friends and is a member of the staff at Bourneville.

Following a reception at the County Hotel, Malvern, attended by one hundred guests, Mr. and Mrs. Cadbury left for Scotland for the honeymoon. Their future residence will be 52, Middleton Hall Road, King's Norton.

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## Special Collections

The Special Collection for August was for Community Action Malvern & District (www.communityaction.org.uk). A total of £205 was collected.

The Special Collection for September is for Child Rescue Nepal (https://childrescuenepal.org).

## Trip to Westonbury Mill Water Gardens — Andy and Ros Boldero

On Friday 22nd August Jon Critoph had arranged for any Quakers to join the mini-bus trip to these gardens, provided by Community Action Ledbury, as part of their extensive excursion programme. Four intrepid souls piled into a car and went to join five locals from Ledbury.

The journey to Pembridge was very smooth despite a bank holiday traffic queue at Dinmore to join the notorious A49! We stopped in Pembridge for a comfort break and to buy extra provisions before heading round the corner to have our picnic alongside the river Arrow. This was a beautifully picturesque place with plenty of picnic benches set out.

It was then a very short drive to the Gardens. Apart from the Mill and the gardens, the other main attractions are the three useless but fascinating follies.
The stone water tower which uses a "conveyor "of troughs to raise the water from the stream to the tank in the top of the tower from which it then spouts out of the mouth of one of the three gargoyles. There is a seating area inside the tower where a local artist has painted a wonderful mural, and on occasions doves can be seen flying around from the dovecot.

The next folly you encounter is the magnificent Glass Bottle Dome, made of five thousand bottles, red, clear, green and blue (Harveys Bristol Cream?) The stonework is amazingly attractive, and the light emitted from the bottles quite magical. The folly encompasses a fernery which is very much in keeping with its cavelike properties.

The ultimate folly is the Giant Water Powered Outdoor Cuckoo Clock! At ten minutes to the hour, the owner describes the mechanism in amusing detail which greatly enhances the whole experience.
Each element of the clock is solely powered by water. Each hour the doors open, the cuckoo emerges and sings, then the mechanism continues to emit other bird sounds in a trilling tone which makes the whole occasion so beautifully unique and pastoral. Apparently, the mechanism was made by the same organ builder who did the restoration of the singing birds at Villa d'Este garden outside Rome.

The grand day out culminated in a well-deserved cup of tea and some of the best home made cakes ever from the cafe! There were also plants to buy which meant we could take back a little something to put in our gardens to remind us of our visit. We all then returned to the minibus, all revelling in the tranquillity of the gardens and the excellent professionalism of our driver.

## The Changing Quaker Understanding of Ministry in Their Worship, or Would We Put Up with George Fox Now? — Richard Bartholomew

I was encouraged by a friend to 'try' a Quaker meeting, and on my 19th birthday I got to sit on the 1st-timers squeaky chair that shrieked with every small attempt to get more comfortable in Huddersfield Quaker Meeting House.

Somehow, I persevered despite this scary first attempt at Quaker worship and sort of slipped into learning about what I was getting into - so no routine prayers but spontaneous ones could be OK, no prepared rants whether sermons or political statements, although spontaneous contributions could be made and might be interpreted by some Friends as one

or other of the above. I made the common mistake of thinking that there was no ritual before realizing what could be more ritualistic than the Quaker silence or its punctuation by ministry - it was just different.

I learned from some older Friends who had been conscientious objectors in past conflicts and from others who had come to Quakerism through NOT being conscientious objectors in these wars. I learned not to be too distracted by those Friends whose Quaker silence morphed into gentle Quaker snoring. I heard the ministry of the Friend who excavated her deep handbag every Sunday morning as she sifted through layers of strata trying to find her hanky or cough-sweets.

I learned the deep blue (to me) togetherness of the gathered meeting and I was delighted to hear how some spoken ministry in these sorts of meetings wove together with the silence into I am not sure what.

I started to read Quaker history as history was always my favourite subject since primary school.

Going through an early mid-life crisis at, I think, 19 years of age and wondering whether any of this religious stuff made any sense, I came across George Fox's Journal in a second-hand shop. I delighted in finding another neurotically religious young man just like me and could identify with him consulting the various 'professors' of his time and getting nowhere.

I was charmed to see the things that the Light Within let him get away with - standing up on the pews of various churches and out preaching the poor vicars,' going naked for a sign' when he first approached Lichfield Cathedral crying "Woe to Thee, Woe to Thee". This 'going naked for a sign' was common for a short time and was edited out of later editions of the Journal as the Quaker movement settled down to a less turbulent set of practices - the spiritual basis of it was, I understood, not to hide from the Lord and its/hers/his wrath. Then there were the 5-hour ministries that may well have riveted Friends to their seats, but it was a time of Civil War and general turbulence.

At some stage, it occurred to me that we would have a problem if, in the way that can only happen in books, Friend Fox turned up to Malvern next Sunday.

I would make my excuses and leave sometime before the 5 hours was up.

We would probably find boorish his standing up on the chairs to outshout someone that he disagreed with.

We might even take exception to the leather suit that he wore on account of spending so much time in prison without proper facilities for the washing of self or clothes - and its smell.

Yet our approach to worship is to be open to the leading of the Spirit, so when I was at Yearly Meeting some years ago in the Friends House Large Meeting Room with several thousand Quakers therein and a woman Friend stood and sang something beautiful, it was absolutely right.

I think too that we must be open to whatever the Spirit brings to us, whether it might be the gentle cooing of a small child-in-arms or the repetition of a prayer learned many years before but called to mind now for whatever reason.

In truth, there's no telling what the Spirit may bring us - are we ready for it?

## Witness to the World — Elizabeth Rolph

Several Quakers joined a vigil in the grounds of Great Malvern Priory on 6th August, "Remembering the devastation of Hiroshima and Nagasaki on August 6th and 9th 1945 and all the conflict in the world today". Organised by Churches Together Malvern, it took the form of a short service, with a silent vigil towards the end. Some of us stood facing the road at that point, and there were banners hanging from the wall.

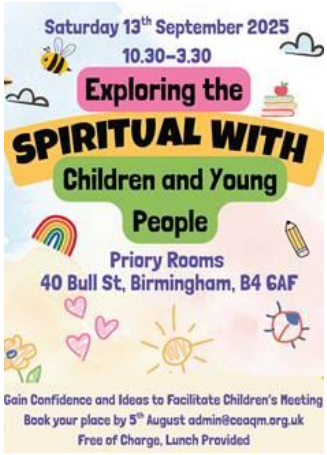



I was rather taken by one of the closing prayers:

May God bless us with the foolishness to think that we can make a difference in the world, so that we will do things which others tell us cannot be done.

## Families Weekend Booking — Liz Flanagan

On Saturday 13th September 10.30-3.30 at Priory Rooms, 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF there will be a training day on Exploring the Spiritual with Children and Young People. It is being facilitated by two Friends from the Training Team from Britain Yearly Meeting and should be a really good day of sharing ideas for children's meetings and building confidence.







Also, bookings are now open for the next Families Weekend 28th-30th November back at the Greenhouse at Barnes Close. I appreciate that it is an expensive time of year so if you would prefer to make a donation in the Autumn that is fine. Donations are voluntary, please do not feel you have to donate if you are not able. Also, some Local Meetings have funds that can be used for this.

Other Dates for your diary:
Saturday 6th September 5.30-8.30
Youth Group ages 10+, Warwick, we will be having a picnic in the Meeting House Garden and then doing a Treasure Trail around Warwick

Saturday 4th October 5.30-8,
youth group, Cotteridge MH, exploring protest with Ailish from QPSW

Saturday 8th November
6-8 youth group, bonfire at Selly Oak

Friday 19th-Sunday 21st June 2026
Families Weekend, The Greenhouse at Barnes Close

**Dell House Open Garden** **Elizabeth Rolph**
**Wednesday 10th September 11 - 5**



We are celebrating 10 years of opening for the National Open Garden Scheme to raise money for charities such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Marie Curie, Parkinsons UK, and Hospice UK.

We have raised nearly £14,000 over the ten years. The garden is almost unrecognisable from its first opening in 2015.



This Open Day marks the 10th birthday of Tamakander, the 6ft dragon that was carved into a 30ft tree trunk in 2015. Since then, over 20 more carvings have been added to this two-acre hillside garden.

Light refreshments will be served on the terrace with stunning views across to the Cotswolds.

Book online if you would like a parking space.

findagarden.ngs.org.uk/garden/32934/the-dell-house

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