Malvern Quaker Meeting





Newsletter February 2025

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 28th March 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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Visit to Cadbury World

Andy Boldero

On Friday 14th of February (Valentine's Day) a minibus from Community Action Ledbury picked up five Malvern Friends and took us to Cadbury World in Bourneville.

Cadbury World is an international destination for chocolate lovers, especially children! Despite the school half terms being a week later, the place was buzzing with excited youngsters, like bees round a honey pot!

On entry we were given two bars of chocolate and ended up with six by the end of the visit, despite not purchasing any in the shop.

The "experience" belongs to the group who run Madame Tussaud's and Warwick Castle, so was very slick. On entry we were immediately in a one-way system which led us through the history of chocolate, with lots of different sights and sounds to replicate the places where cocoa is grown and brought to England for production. The Quakers were mentioned a couple of times in the exhibition.

Once through the main historical section, there was an area where we could see staff making liquid chocolate into moulds, and handwriting greetings on to various chocolate shaped gifts. It was here that you got to taste the liquid chocolate - much like the familiar Dairy Milk but more of a thick sauce and incredibly chocolaty!

We declined the opportunity to try our hands at making something ourselves - we just knew we would end up wearing most of it; there was already enough on the floor!

The next section was a museum of all the packaging through the decades and the enormous variety of Cadbury products. Also included were some old TV advertisements - most of which we were old enough to remember. Whatever happened to the Milk Tray Man?

The cafe provided a welcome cuppa; the method of ordering using QR codes was way beyond us but at least you could order a drink in person! The menu was somewhat expensive and very much orientated towards children, so we were glad to have brought our own sandwiches.



We then ventured out to explore Bourneville Village which is only a few hundred yards away. It was a revelation. In contrast to the immersive nature of Cadbury World, it was a wonderful open space in the style of a garden city with a range of shops, schools, the Meeting House and other churches. We spent some time in Selly Manor Museum which was a haven of peace and tranquillity after the razzmatazz of the factory experience. We didn't have enough time for the 15-minute walk to Woodbrooke.



We felt well prepared for Bourneville, having just read the excellent book "The Chocolate Wars" by Deborah Cadbury. This is a good read and outlines the history of all the Quaker chocolate families. Walking around Bourneville Village brought it all to life. It wouldn't have been fair to expect such detailed coverage from Cadbury World alone, since despite being advertised as "fun for all ages", it was more of a young person's day out. But we were a little disappointed that the shop seemed to only sell chocolate and a few soft toys - not a book to be seen, or even any greetings cards.

Home in time for tea, and a big thank you to Jon Critoph for arranging it all.

He and his family couldn't be there, but a couple of regulars from CAL drove the minibus and ensured we all got round and then came home safely.

Advices & Queries No 22

Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journeys of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness which our discipleship asks of us? Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God.

SHARING AND LEARNING

Peter Bevan

At our recent People Group business meeting (Feb. 2025) it was agreed to have a series of meetings to share some of our personal experiences - getting to know you. These meetings will be held on the third Wednesday of each month after the MfW i.e. at about 12.30 - 1.00 (bring your own lunch) and can last for up to 90 minutes, although it is anticipated that the

meetings will vary in length. The title and the content are determined by each presenter and can be a presentation, followed by discussion, but can also be an activity (perhaps have fun!).

Also, two people may wish to share a session. It is hoped that each presenter will include some spiritual reflections on their life which may encourage further reflection and discussion. The following list (in alphabetical order by first name) is arbitrary, flexible and can be changed - as can the subjects/headings suggested (I am aware that I have not yet asked everyone). It would be helpful to know when (which month) and what (rough title) by replying to Peter B. Who will start?

Ali C:	mind and body
Andrew J:	life as a Russian scholar
Annette dlC:	travelling with my spirit
Annie B:	sounds in my head - Bell ringing
Bryan R:	the pleasure of maths
David E:	building a world
Elizabeth R:	from doing to being
Hugh M:	coping with change
Jill E:	miracles
Joanna B:	these are a few of my favourite things
John Co:	risk taking / near death experiences
John Cr:	the adventure of life
Jonathan Kn:	
Kate M:	looking after oneself
Kevin R:	games people play
Liz F:	engaging children
Raphael B:	consciousness/ reality
Richard Ba:	committee life / social responsibility / loving the Welsh landscape
Paul W:	getting on with other people
Peter B:	the job of a mental health social worker implicit religion Taoism and healing peace testimony
Richard Be:	
Sean M:	the art of teaching

Special Collections

The Special Collection for February was for Malvern Cube. A total of £151.14 was collected. The Special Collection for March will be The Farmers Overseas Action Group, FOAG. It currently has ten projects to help farmers in Uganda grow more and waste less food, invests in children's education and supports healthcare for youngsters with physical and mental disabilities. A former member of our Meeting, Betty Hudson, was instrumental in setting it up. www.foag.org.

Festival of Biblical Literature and The Prophet Amos Seminar

James Priestman

The Festival of Biblical Literature will be taking place at the Meeting House from the 3rd to the 5th of July 2025. James Priestman is the Festival Director and will again be leading this event. The programme can be seen here: https://www.festivalofbiblicalliterature.co.uk/ and on Facebook at https://www.facebook.com/FestivalOfBiblicalLiterature/

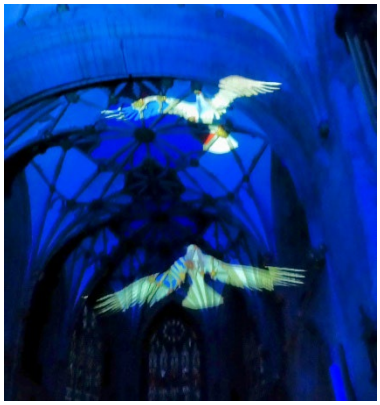
In the evening on 3rd April James will be delivering an online seminar for Woodbrooke (the Quaker learning and research organisation) on the prophet Amos. He will describe the geo-political situation in which Amos prophesied and consider how his criticisms of the rich and powerful are relevant today. It will include group discussion and private reflection.

Trip to Tewkesbury Abbey

Elizabeth Rolph

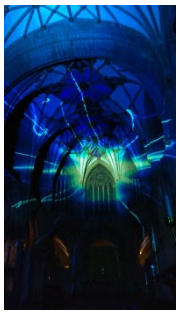
Twelve of us enjoyed a trip to Tewkesbury Abbey at the end of February. 7,000 Peace Doves filled the Abbey's nave, each decorated with messages of love and peace by local schools, community groups, and residents. We sat and watched Imagine Peace, a sound and light show illuminating the architecture. We then enjoyed a meal together at the nearby pub.











We were all given a slip of paper as we left the Abbey, which included these words:

As you continue on your journey, please take this prayer with you:

Deep peace of the running wave to you.
Deep peace of the flowing air to you.
Deep peace of the quiet earth to you.
Deep peace of the shining stars to you.
Deep peace of the gentle night to you.
Moon and stars pour their healing light on you.
Deep peace of Christ,
of Christ the light of the world to you.
Deep peace of Christ to you.

Quakers and the Spirit:
The Annual CRQS/QSRA Quaker Studies Conference

Quaker Studies Conference is co-sponsored by Woodbrooke's Centre for Research in Quaker Studies and the Quaker Studies Research Association. It will explore a range of scholarly approaches to the topic "Quakers and the Spirit".

The link below gives access to the booking site for the annual Conference of CRQS/QSRA, which is being held in Leeds on 28 June 2025.

https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/quakers-and-the-spirit-the-annual-crqs-qsra-quaker-studies-conference/

Attendance can be in person or online.

Spring Care and Repair Day **Paul Wyatt**

The Meeting House Group are planning to hold a Spring Care and Repair Day (morning really) Monday 7th April 09.00 - 1pm ish.

We anticipate the usual list of jobs to be undertaken:

- cleaning of secondary glazing, at least 2 people
- reviewing cupboard contents
- curtain hanging where necessary
- cleaning of gutters
- vacuum cleaning of library carpets
- buffing of MH floor
- review of kitchen cupboards - we seem to have a great many mugs
- review of external woodwork
- cleaning of windows
- clearing of gutters
- review of children's room roof
- review of hedges and borders that Robin can't manage.

Any other items can be added.
As usual please bring whatever tools and equipment you feel would be useful.
Any purchased items please let me have the receipts for reimbursement.

Peer Mediation Course **Sue Dakin**

Sue Dakin delivers four different Active Peace Education courses in local schools and has recently trained as a peer mediator trainer. This is one of her first reports.

We are now in our fifth week of six, and the class have settled down but remain quite a challenge. I think going in for six afternoons rather than three full days has worked well. They are a lively bunch, and several of them have issues and obstacles to overcome. We have bonded well, and now we are making progress. The teachers are all on board with the course, and the staff meeting was very positive. Mrs Hibbell, the head, personally spoke to me and said it was good for the rest of the staff to hear from someone else how tricky this group is.

One week I received a lovely card from one pupil who struggled to apologise for her behaviour the week before - a positive gesture. I have made them a book to which they are going to add words and pictures of all the work we have been doing, which they can keep as a reference. I have also made a master copy of the book. I have created a feedback form for the school to fill in, which will be really useful.

Jesus in His Time

Mary Corfield

This book, written by Elizabeth Coleman, who is a Friend (book reviewed by Priscilla Alderson from Dorchester Meeting in The Friend, 21 February 2025), very strikingly communicates what it could have been like to be with Jesus during his work with people in his lifetime. In this book the author sets out a number of short narratives, which are imagined, but personal and clear, in which someone who knew Jesus talks about the practical aspects of his life. The author conceptualises these relationships, first with a pharisee, then with a doctor, then unnamed disciples, all of whom accompany Jesus on his walks around villages, teaching and healing. They experience his overwhelming love and concern for everyone he meets. The people who accompany him relate their different reactions to his work and are left wondering at some of his parables. There are also comments from his mother and sister as they relate his painful relationship with his family when they could not accept his radical lifestyle.

There tends to be agreement among historians that some records from the gospels and some early scrolls of Jesus's words, deeds and death are reliable, but various mystical imaginings were also invented to spread Pauline Christianity around the Greek-speaking world, and they echo the stories of the Greek gods. Moreover, these myths have attracted countless followers, and it is the myths which have helped Jesus's memory to endure until today, and unfortunately, they have become a significant barrier for many people, who are taught now to rely on scientific facts. The person who has reviewed this book is of the opinion that this exploration for the real Jesus will help many hesitant and doubtful believers as well as would-be believers.

The reviewer asserts that this book 'beautifully conveys how Jesus's real words and actions, and way of life, relate to our times, our lives and our decisions.'

I have ordered a copy of this book for our library.