Malvern Quaker Meeting





Newsletter February/March 2024

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 17th May 2024.
Past editions of the Newsletter are on our Meeting website www.malvernquakers.org.uk.

Mary Corfield *newsletter@malvernquakermeeting.org.uk*

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

---

Festival of Biblical Literature — **James Priestman**

The first Malvern Festival of Biblical Literature will take place in Malvern Quaker Meeting House between 4th and 6th July 2024. The festival will be a study and celebration of the Bible in literature (for example, there will be a seminar on the use of the story of Job in literature from Charles Dickens to Muriel Spark) and of the Bible as literature (for example, there will be a lecture on the literary techniques used in the story of David and Bathsheba). As well as the seminars, there will be music and poetry.

For more information and to buy tickets, please go to

https://www.festivalofbiblicalliterature.co.uk.

Some of the speakers have asked if we can sort out accommodation for them. Some of them have said they would be very happy to stay with local Quakers who might have a spare room available. If you are able to help in this way. please contact James at

jamesdpriestman@gmail.com.

Special Collections

Jill reported that the collection for March [Lyttelton Well] raised £132.70. The Special Collection for April has been suggested to be for Chernobyl Children.

Wedding of Andy and Ros

Richard and K Beach

Hereford Meeting House on Saturday 24th February 2024

Hereford Friends warmly welcomed Friends and friends of Andy and Ros and told us that Hereford Meeting is happy to be a stepping stone between Ross on Wye where they had been members, and Malvern where their new home together is.



Soon after the Meeting for Worship began, Andy and Ros made their vows. During the remainder of the meeting a goodly number of the about 70 present ministered in appreciation and love of their friendship. Some who had known them for a long time referred to each of their late spouses and their individual bereavements, spirit of resilience, courage, their becoming close friends, turning to love, adventure and commitment, leading them to today.

All at the meeting, whether knowing them for many years or only a short time, were at Ros and Andy's wedding wishing them happiness and offering support.

After the Meeting for Worship ended, Penny Harding, the registering officer, asked all who had witnessed Andy and Ros make their vows to sign the marriage certificate, and noted that the few people who arrived after the vows had been made would not be allowed to sign the marriage certificate as they were not witnesses. However, Penny did suggest that Ros and Andy might, in another room with her and the late comers, make their vows again, and then they too would be permitted to sign the marriage certificate.

So Ros and Andy are now well and twicely married.

The happy couple were wearing colour co-ordinated outfits, the bride in a stunning red and black flowered dress, the groom with matching tie and pocket handkerchief. Each was accompanied by family, and also present were two matchingly dressed bears.

Advices & Queries No 15

Do you take part as often as you can in meetings for church affairs? Are you familiar enough with our church government to contribute to its disciplined processes? Do you consider difficult questions with an informed mind as well as a generous and loving spirit? Are you prepared to let your insights and personal wishes take their place alongside those of others or be set aside as the meeting seeks the right way forward? If you cannot attend, uphold the meeting prayerfully.

Little Friends — Rosemary Webb

The theme for Little Friends for April is Llamas and Alpacas. We look forward to seeing you on 14th April from 2.45 – 4.00pm, and please invite your friends.



Children's Meeting — Liz Flanagan

This is now held on the 4th Sunday of each month and is for school age children and their friends.

We are DBS checked and work in pairs. We follow the Friends House guidelines and have fun. All are welcome.

'365 Prescriptions for the Soul' by Bernie Siegel. — Jill Etheridge

The fruit of silence is prayer.
The fruit of prayer is faith.
The fruit of faith is love.
The fruit of love is service.
The fruit of service is peace.

Mother Teresa

What Can We Do for Peace in Palestine and Israel?

Richard Bartholomew

We are all asking ourselves this question, as we desperately search for an answer.

- You will without doubt have started a long-term correspondence with your MP about what our UK Government might do to seriously affect the current devastation. Carry on please.
- You can also support Palestinian farmers, both Christian & Muslim, by buying Palestinian products under the Zaytoun product label (Zaytoun is Arabic for 'Olive'), and this is easily done from the Ethical Supermarket at Zaytoun - Ethical Superstore and to give you a snapshot of prices, try these:

Organic & Fairtrade Extra Virgin Olive Oil	1 litre	£29.50
Organic & Fairtrade Extra Virgin Olive Oil	500ml	£16.50
Organic & Fairtrade Extra Virgin Olive Oil	250ml	£10.95
Medjoul Dates	250g	£5.99
Zaytoun Olive Oil Soap		£4.95
Zaytoun Palestinian Almonds	150g	£6.95
Zaytoun Dead Sea Bath Salt	750g	£6.95
Zaytoun Cook Book		£25.95

NB these prices may be more than you would pay in your supermarket, but remember they hold the perhaps slim hope of a 'peace premium' in that if we can provide a bit of stability for the farmers of the West Bank, it may just help to get a successful peace initiative over the line. They also make great Easter presents from the Holy Land - go on, give a bit of peace instead of a chocolate egg!

- Don't forget to support EAPPI who send human rights monitors to the West Bank on behalf of all of us, see Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel | World Council of Churches (oikoumene.org)

On Daffodil Ministry

Richard Bartholomew

Our Elder Jill recently pointed out in ministry that the traditional Quaker reserve about 'daffodil ministry' had its limitations, and this poem reminded me of how spot-on was her ministry.

Gillian Clarke, the former National Poet of Wales, explains that she had been asked to do a reading at Pen-y-Fal Hospital for the long-term mentally ill when in a pause a patient who had not spoken for years stood up and, well read on.....

Miracle on St David's Day:

'They flash upon that inward eye
which is the bliss of solitude'
(from 'The Daffodils' by William Wordsworth)

An afternoon yellow and open-mouthed
with daffodils. The sun treads the path
among cedars and enormous oaks.
It might be a country house, guests strolling,
the rumps of gardeners between nursery shrubs.

I am reading poetry to the insane.
An old woman, interrupting, offers
as many buckets of coal as I need.
A beautiful chestnut-haired boy listens
entirely absorbed. A schizophrenic

on a good day, they tell me later.
In a cage of first March sun a woman
sits not listening, not feeling.
In her neat clothes the woman is absent.
A big, mild man is tenderly led

to his chair. He has never spoken.
His labourer's hands on his knees, he rocks
gently to the rhythms of the poems.
I read to their presences, absences,
to the big, dumb labouring man as he rocks.

He is suddenly standing, silently,
huge and mild, but I feel afraid. Like slow
movement of spring water or the first bird
of the year in the breaking darkness,
the labourer's voice recites 'The Daffodils'.

The nurses are frozen, alert; the patients
seem to listen. He is hoarse but word-perfect.
Outside the daffodils are still as wax,
a thousand, ten thousand, their syllables
unspoken, their creams and yellows still.

Forty years ago, in a Valleys school,
the class recited poetry by rote.
Since the dumbness of misery fell
he has remembered there was a music
of speech and that once he had something to say.

When he's done, before the applause, we observe
the flowers' silence. A thrush sings
and the daffodils are flame.