Malvern Quaker Meeting





Newsletter June 2024

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 30th August 2024.
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@malvernqualermeeting.org.uk

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Invitation from Hereford Quakers — Ruth Stanier

Dear Friends,

The 2024 Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) World Plenary will be the first ever hybrid (in-person and on-line) global gathering of Quakers, and FWCC wants to bring the experience to as many Quakers as possible. Quakers are creating hubs at their meeting houses and churches around the world so they can gather and share in the experience of this global Quaker gathering that was formerly only available to representatives who could travel in-person. FWCC is hoping many Quaker meetings will create hubs so more Friends can witness the first hybrid world gathering of Friends.

Hereford Quakers have registered as a hub. Our Meeting Room is booked for us to participate in the following sessions:

Wednesday 7th August, Care of Creation
Friday 9th August, Ubuntu and Community
Saturday 10th August, Healing Historical Injustices
On British Summer Time they will be at 10:45 - 12:15.

Ubuntu is an African concept, sometimes translated as "I am because you are", or "humanity towards others", or in a more philosophical sense to mean "the belief in a universal bond of sharing that connects all humanity".

I am writing now to invite any interested Friends from Abergavenny, Almeley, Ludlow, Malvern or Ross to join us. (Friends from further afield are of course very welcome too!). It isn't necessary for Friends to say in advance that they are coming, and I hope that many people will come to join us.

Special Collections

The Special Collection for June was for Worcester Samaritans, and Annette reported that £187 was collected.

The Special Collection for July is for ShelterBox. See article about ShelterBox below.

ShelterBox July Collection — Melanie Jameson

ShelterBox provides essential items and technical assistance to help vulnerable communities recover and rebuild their homes after disaster. This is often in the form of emergency shelter units and shelter kits https://shelterbox.org/what-we-do/aid-items/shelter-kits/ These kits are stored in strategic locations around the world so they can be distributed as soon as possible to the families who need them.

ShelterBox work closely with local people, adapting their support to best assist in a range of challenging situations and often making that extra effort to access hard to reach communities who are overlooked by other charities. Their teams on the ground consist of trusted local partners and a network of volunteers.

I had a chance to see the range of their work at a recent event in London where I was able to see a ShelterBox unit that can accommodate a family, and chatted to the CEO.

Their units have helped over 250,000 people, but there are currently 110 million displaced people, which they expect to rise to 1 billion, due mainly to climate change.

Examples of ShelterBox's adaptability include flood-proof units in Pakistan and home repair kits due for the Philippines to recurring hurricanes.

I learned that they had kits waiting to be delivered to Gaza, which would provide essential shelter.

This is a very worthwhile charity with a tried and tested approach: the more donations they receive, the more people they can help. https://shelterbox.org/donate/

Advices & Queries No 19

Rejoice in the presence of children and young people in your meeting and recognise the gifts they bring. Remember that the meeting as a whole shares a responsibility for every child in his care. Seek for them as for yourself a full development of God's gifts and the abundant life Jesus tells us can be ours. How do you share your deepest beliefs with them, while leaving them free to develop as the spirit of God may lead them? Do you invite them to share their insights with you? Are you ready both to learn from them and to accept your responsibilities towards them?

One Day Pilgrimage Walk — Annette de la Cour

Keen walkers might be interested in this one-day pilgrimage on July 20 on the Hills organised by the British Pilgrim Trust. For details see:

Springs and Stones of the Malvern Hills – a one-day geological pilgrimage (britishpilgrimage.org)

Cheltenham Quakers Come to Malvern — Elizabeth Rolph

Some of you may recall Cheltenham Meeting used our Meeting house for a day retreat a few years back. This was a prerequisite to their first visit to the Dell House, and they came for their third weekend retreat in June.



It is good to see the house and garden being appreciated and so well used. They find the weekends really refreshing and leave feeling invigorated and strengthened. They are an active meeting and brought their wonderful banner which they use on their monthly vigils. We were pleased to join them for their Meeting for Worship on the terrace; the weather was perfect, and it was a powerful Meeting.



They expect to be back next year.

What we offer is relevant to all — Melanie Jameson

There is some concern amongst Friends that our Meetings are largely made up of people who are retired, many in their 70s, well-educated and white. Much thought is dedicated to how to reach wider communities, and specially a younger demographic. But there is one setting where you will find as many black as white participants, and of all ages - that is within our prisons.

Quaker Prison Chaplains work in most prisons in England and Wales (they have never been able to get into Scottish establishments), sharing the administrative load and the daily statutory visits to those on the Healthcare Wing and in the Segregation Unit.

Quaker Meetings, open to all, are offered taking various forms – in HMP Long Lartin a candle is lit on our lovely round table, hand-crafted by a former member of the group, and we then settle into a half-hour of worship followed by refreshments and the chance to talk. Since the men come from different wings, this is their only chance to meet up unless they are in the same workshop or education class. Half the group are black, few have much education, and we have the full range of ages. It is evidence that what we offer is relevant to all.