Malvern Quaker Meeting





Newsletter June 2025

Items for the next issue of the Newsletter will need to reach me by 31st July 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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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 (12.30 - 1.00 and bring your own lunch). It is anticipated that the sessions will vary in length and can last up to 60 minutes. The title and the content are determined by each presenter and can be a presentation, followed by discussion, but also could be an activity; 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.

Some people cannot make Wednesdays. It has therefore been suggested that some sharing take place after food on the fourth Sunday starting at 1.00. I have tentatively put some names below for Sundays.

It would be helpful to let me know if these arrangements are ok by replying to Peter B. Thanks.

June	18	Andrew J:	Life as a Russian scholar
July	16	Peter B:	Taoism and healing
Aug.	20	Raphael B:	Consciousness and reality
Sept.	17	Bryan R:	In Search of Yeshua - the factual, theological and personal"
Oct.	15	David E:	Growing vegetables
Nov.	19	Joanna B:	Silence - Sanctuary and Transformation
Dec.	17	Elizabeth R:	Living Adventurously

The following are suggested for 2026 - please confirm your availability.

Jan.	21	Annie B:	
Feb.	22	Kevin R	Sunday

Mar	18	Hugh Mc.M	
Apr	15	Elizabeth F	
May	24	Melanie J.	Sunday
Jun	17		
July	15	Richard B	
Aug	23	Jill E.	Sunday
Sept	16		
Oct	21		
Nov	22	Annette	Sunday
Dec	16		

Advices & Queries No 28

Every stage of our lives offers fresh opportunities. Responding to divine guidance, try to discern the right time to undertake or relinquish responsibilities without undue pride or guilt. Attend to what love requires of you, which may not be great busyness.

Quaker Life Representative Council

Kate Macdonald

QLRC is planning Regional Days in the autumn, and the Birmingham one is 8 November at the Priory Rooms. Places will be limited, and children and families will be prioritised, but other places may become available.

Quaker Week 2025 will be 27 Sept to 5 Oct.

Swarthmore Lecture
Watched at Dell House

Jill Etheridge

On Monday 23rd June a small group of us watched the 2025 Swarthmore Lecture at The Dell House. It was inspiring to listen to Emily Provance and to learn how she has distilled the contents of so many different countries' Books of Quaker Discipline into 92 written Minutes, also with reference to the Bible. Following this, Jill Etheridge is offering to facilitate several discussion groups, probably between drinks time and lunch on fourth Sundays, to look at selections from these. Watch out for further details!

Active Peace Education — Liz Flanagan

On 14 July Heather from Peacemakers will present certificates published by Peaceful Schools movement to the 6 youngsters who helped me so much with my research. Afterwards we are all invited to the tea party at the Meeting House. The invitation below has gone to schools. Please support this event.

A brief summary of my findings will be available shortly.

An Invitation to Afternoon Tea

To Celebrate 7 years of Active Peace Education in the Malvern Area

and be part of our future.

Guest speaker Heather Rowlands of Peacemakers, Birmingham,

talking about the new version of ***Learning for Peace***

*A toolkit for peace education in primary schools**

Enjoy a well-earned tea, meet the local peace educators and tell us what you appreciate and what more you would like to have in your school.

3.30-5.00pm Monday July 14th

Quaker Meeting House, 1 Orchard Road, Malvern WR14 3QE

All staff and F/friends are welcome

Please contact Liz Flanagan to confirm how many will be attending from your school on 07854244591, or flanaganelizabeth63@gmail.com

*Copies of this amazing book will be on sale at a discounted price (supported by Malvern Quakers)

Quakers at Midsummer Malvern in 2026? — Elizabeth Rolph

After Meeting for Worship on Sunday 22nd June, Kevin and I went over to see what was going on in Priory Park, having picked up (probably through Facebook) that there was a community event taking place.

'A jam-packed day of family fun, food, and festivities at one of Malvern's best-loved free community events! The Midsummer Malvern Community Celebration is back – and it's bigger and better than ever.'

There was indeed a hive of activity, from music, craft and charity stalls, activities for children, food and drink and a dog show, running from 11.30 to 5 pm. We heard a fascinating short talk about how the rower from Malvern survived her solo transatlantic row.

This was organised by Community Action Malvern working with the Malvern Civic Society. Stalls included Malvern Welcomes, Malvern Gardening Club, the Vegan Society and Worcestershire Wildlife Trust. There is an opportunity here for us to make ourselves better known, right on our doorstep. So, watch this space!

Special Collections

Annette de la Cour

The Special Collection for June was for Age UK Wyvern, and a total of £190 was collected.

I propose Ramallah Friends School in Palestine for the month of July and that we work down the list in the order given through to December.

Further to my mention in this month's Newsletter that we have now come to the end of the current list of charities for Special Collections, and call out for suggestions to be included in a new list to take us to the end of the year, I received a number of proposals - thank you. Some of these I will now hold over until next year.

Ramallah Friends School Palestine (www.rfs.edu.ps)

Community Action Malvern (www.communityaction.org.uk)

Child Rescue Nepal (https://childrescuenepal.org)

Escaping Victimhood (www.escapingvictimhood.com) – Quaker-founded but an independent charity for many years and one struggling to get enough funding to continue helping family members of homicides. In October to coincide with Prisons Week.

UNHCR Refugee Ribbon Appeal (www.unrefugees.org.uk)

Book Trust (www.booktrust.org.uk) Programmes and support to help children and families throughout the UK start and continue to read.

War, Trauma and Quakers in Worcestershire

Elizabeth Rolph & Melanie Jameson

This was the title of a fascinating talk organised by the Battle of Worcestershire Society held at the Commandery at the end of May. The speaker, Erica Canela, is an early modern social historian from Delaware, specialising in English Quaker history and the psychological trauma of the Civil Wars.

It's impossible to recount what she said, but here is the gist. During the Civil War (1642 – 51) there was a crisis of faith, and people were listening to what the travelling preachers had to say. George Fox was one of these, entering churches to preach that everyone could communicate with God. The focus of early Quakers was that all could communicate with God, and that everyone had access to 'the power of the Lord'. This was taken to the extreme by one Quaker, who claimed to be able to raise people from the dead. In the night, she dug up a body after it had been in the grave for four days. She then claimed that the reason she failed was that the body had been in the grave longer than the third day, when Jesus had been raised from the dead. Interestingly, she was not turned away by the Quakers, although it did lead to a bit of a review.

After the Civil War George Fox was active in Worcester, and the first Meeting House was built in 1671. George Fox was imprisoned in Worcester in 1673 – 5. By 1690 there were 13 Quaker Meetings in Worcester.

In the autumn Erica will be publishing "Zealous: A Darker Side of the Early Quakers", which hopefully we will get for our library.

American First Nation's Ten Commandments — Melanie Jameson

During a recent Meeting for Worship, I read out the American First Nation's **Ten Commandments**, which I have recorded in my notebook.

It is an interesting exercise to then re-read them, starting each phrase with '*Do you…*' OR '*Do we…*' so that they become like our Advices & Queries.

Treat the Earth and all that dwell thereon with respect.
Remain close to the Great Spirit.
Show great respect for your fellow beings.
Work together for the benefit of all Mankind.
Give assistance and kindness wherever needed.
Do what you know to be right.
Look after the well-being of mind and body.
Dedicate a share of your efforts to the greater good.
Be truthful and honest at all times.
Take full responsibility for your actions.

Worcester Theological Society — Peter Bevan

At a recent meeting of the Worcester Theological Society, we considered "The biggest challenge facing my Church". Here are some of the issues considered. Although this interchurches group focused on the last two topics, all of them have relevance to Society of Friends.

What is meant by 'my'?
Anxiety over loss of numbers.
Anxiety over loss of influence or respect.
Cultures of fear and despair.
Disunity of purpose.
Mission statements and the 'message'.
Models of 'Church'.
A culture to challenge or set apart?
Leadership styles and selection.

Our next meeting is on 17 July at St Andrews Methodist Church, Pump Street, 1-45 for 2.00pm. We will be considering the topic "Does the Church need a Creed?".