

Building community



For Quakers, building community means fostering a sense of belonging, connection and shared purpose among Friends. Giving to Quakers in Britain helps us to build and strengthen our community, support diverse projects and promote Quaker values in the world.



Local development work connecting children and families in Scotland

Friends in Scotland can be widely dispersed, and most meetings aren't regularly attended by children. Quaker children and families can feel lonely and unwelcome in adult Quaker spaces, leading them to leave meetings. This is a devastating loss to our faith community.

We've found that residential and weekend events that bring Friends together from across Scotland are a great way to help dispersed children and families feel in tune with each other.

So we turned to our CYP Advocates, who promote the inclusion of children and young people in the life of Quaker meetings. Supported by our local development worker in Scotland, they organised and ran a Children and Families Weekend in May 2023.



Young people, parents, carers, and grandparents all came together for fun, worship and community-building at the Atholl Centre in Pitlochry, Perthshire. The theme for the weekend was 'Peace at the heart', inspired by the **travelling exhibition** that later called in at the Scottish Parliament.

The weekend helped build connections and foster honest sharing among age groups. We heard continuing support for young Friends' Summer Shindig and a clear understanding of the principles of the 'Peace at the heart' exhibition, plus potential new venues for its tour.

Friends were made and bonds developed across the vast geographical distances of Scotland. The weekend really strengthened our all-age Quaker community. We can't wait for the next one!

It was really nice and fun. I loved playing with all the children. It's good to see other people from my culture and what I believe in, because I don't really see that a lot.

An 8-year-old who attended the weekend

Peace education putting peace at the heart of schools

Our peace education team has been busy promoting the recommendations of its **Peace at the heart report**. The report shows that schools that have embraced peace education have increased wellbeing, reduced exclusions and enabled rights to flourish.

In August 2023 we previewed our 'Peace at the heart of Scottish schools' **travelling exhibition** at the AGM of Scotland's largest teaching union, the EIS. This allowed staff to present the exhibition and explain the report's principles and proposals directly to teachers.

Quakers in Britain now has provider status from the Scottish Trades Union Congress and has partnered with the EIS to offer teacher training.

Meanwhile, Mary Troup – CYP Advocate for Quakers in Scotland – worked with children from Glasgow's Oakgrove Primary School and students from the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland to stage a musical performance of Jeanette Winter's *Wangari's trees of peace* in the Scottish Parliament.

Their performance, on the International Day of Peace, was greeted by a standing ovation. Michelle Thomson MSP, who sponsored the event and our exhibition, said it was a privilege to hear their work in Parliament.

The following week gave us the chance to share the exhibition with MSPs as they went to and from the chamber. We discussed how peace education could be strengthened and promoted a **motion** that has won cross-party support.

The performance at Holyrood brought together MSPs and representatives of organisations engaged in peace and mediation work in Scottish schools, including Peace Education Scotland and the **IDEAS network**. These organisations are now keen to work more closely with Quakers in Scotland to rekindle political support for peace education.

We've developed a lot since we first started... and it's important that young people's voices are heard in places like the Scottish Parliament.

A pupil from Oakgrove Primary School in Glasgow



Parliamentary engagement pulling together to push for change

Recent parliamentary engagement has sparked meaningful connections and community-building among Scottish Quakers, while amplifying our witness on urgent issues.

We approached MSPs to nominate Friends to lead the Scottish Parliament's 'Time for Reflection'. In April 2023 Dr Lesley Morrison of Tweeddale Meeting led 'Time for Reflection', asking '**Are we good ancestors?**'. It prompted enthusiastic interest from Parliament and our Quaker community.



Lesley has been invited to propose a follow-up event at Holyrood called 'The climate crisis is a health crisis', scheduled for March 2024. Its aim will be to educate MSPs on this critical issue and generate further discussion. Quakers from across Scotland with relevant expertise are now collaborating to form a panel and plan the event.

By boosting Lesley's witness, we have created opportunities for Friends to support each other in speaking truth to power. We have also created space for MSPs to discuss the wider impacts of the climate crisis.

Our parliamentary engagement has strengthened bonds within and beyond our Quaker community, while amplifying our prophetic voice on climate justice. By creating space for dialogue, we are living out our calling to work together for a just and sustainable world.

We need to work urgently to preserve the Earth that we love [and] to find ways of working with those whose actions could destroy it... The climate crisis is a health crisis, and health professionals have a duty to use their voice to say this very loudly.

Lesley Morrison, Friend



Your contributions making a difference

Beyond our own area meeting, funds are required for the wider organisation of Friends and the work we undertake centrally. Without these, we would be a scattered collection of small meetings with no coherence or shared witness.

Quaker faith & practice (4th edition) 14.05

Witness through action 24%

Campaigning for a more peaceful and sustainable world

Practical action on peacebuilding and education at home and abroad

Resources and training for Friends taking local action

Supporting Quaker communities 32%

Resources for children and young people

Local development workers to help Friends sustain the life of their meetings

Safeguarding

Sustaining our church and faith 19%

Sustaining Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting

Facilitating the revision of *Quaker faith & practice*

Promoting Quakerism 25%

Influencing public policy to bring Quaker values to the world

Providing a strong collective voice for Quakers in Britain

Sharing our faith with others

Increasing Quaker numbers

Total expenditure: £7.9m
(2021: £6.8m)

Gifts from meetings and individuals totalled £2.4m in 2022

The chart shows what proportion of our total expenditure goes to each of our charitable objectives. For more detail on our finances, view our 2022 annual report and financial statements at www.quaker.org.uk/annualreview.

What does being a Quaker mean to you?

It's my primary community, it is the spiritual, ethical, and discipline that I try to live. It is partially about a shared sense of commitment to transformation, individually and in the world. Personally, it is about the practices of the business method, the model in which things can be done more widely.

Laurie Michaelis, Oxford & Swindon Area Meeting

Quakerism was the rock on which she built her life, based on the caring community that it offered. I think her 'faith' was uncertain, but she was never doubting the goodness of people, the rightness of the message of peace.

Mark Davies about his mother, Celia, who left Quakers in Britain a gift in her will

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If you would like to make a regular gift by standing order, contact us: contributions@quaker.org.uk

We can still accept cheques but online donations can be processed more easily, safely and reliably.

www.quaker.org.uk

Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), operating as Quakers in Britain
Registered charity number 1127633 | Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Giving to Quakers in Britain



Tear off this form to complete by hand and send it to:
Contribution 2023, FREEPOST QUAKERS (no address or stamp required) or give to your local meeting treasurer.

You can also give online and download additional copies of this leaflet from www.quaker.org.uk/giving.

We appreciate that some Friends will be able to contribute more than others. Our suggested donation of £240 a year works out at £20 a month. If you already have a standing order set up, please consider increasing the amount that you give.

The work of Quakers in Britain is supported by direct donations from Friends and from local and area meetings. We thank you for your ongoing support.

Part 1: Your details

Name

Address

Postcode

Email Today's date

Your local meeting

You are a Member Attender

Part 2: Giving

I would like to make a one-off gift:

- online £ _____
- cheque payable to Britain Yearly Meeting (enclosed) £ _____
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- I will make a regular gift (please send me information)

Part 3: Additional information

- I would like to sign up to Quakers in Britain's email newsletter
- I would like information on leaving a legacy for Quaker work
- I am happy to receive communications from the fundraising team.

Registered with



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Signature	<input type="text"/>	Today's date	<input type="text"/>

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Gift Aid notes

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- want to cancel this declaration
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