

# Quaker Life



## Wardenship & Employment

Quaker Life Wardenship Committee works to support Quaker Meetings and their employees in all aspects of wardenship, employment and the use of meeting houses.

## Resources and support for your needs

Quaker meeting houses and the ways in which they are used vary enormously. Quaker Life Wardenship Committee recognizes the diversity in our meetings and in the ways in which meeting houses are used and staffed. The committee and Quaker Life staff seek to provide support in a wide ranging and flexible way to Friends as employers and to their employees.



Dominic Kent, warden at Friends House. Many wardens have a range of responsibilities that involve much more than care for buildings.

A resource guide for employers and employees is available on the wardenship pages of the Britain Yearly meeting web site and by post from the wardenship administrator at Friends House.

Working in partnership with Woodbrooke, the committee organise an annual residential training event for Quaker employers and employees, looking at all aspects of managing our meeting houses. In addition, there is an annual day conference for employers and day events for wardens are organised around the country. Support is offered to Quaker employers and employees by the staff based at Friends House who can be contacted initially by telephone, e-mail or letter.

The committee also seek to work with other Quaker Life committees to take forward issues that are of concern to Friends. They have recently organized a residential training event for wardens exploring their role in developing spiritual hospitality and outreach.

## Get in touch

### Wardenship Committee Information Line

Telephone 020 7663 1096 or  
e-mail [Richards@quaker.org](mailto:Richards@quaker.org) for  
confidential advice

### Conferences & Training

Details will be sent to meetings,  
or are available from the  
wardenship Administrator 020  
7663 1140 [Suzel@quaker.org.uk](mailto:Suzel@quaker.org.uk)

### On Line Information and Resources

[www.quaker.org.uk/wardens](http://www.quaker.org.uk/wardens)

Join the Wardenship E-Group  
[http://lists.quaker.eu.org/  
mailman/listinfo/wardenship](http://lists.quaker.eu.org/mailman/listinfo/wardenship)

**“Good to know that you  
are there!” Great Ayton  
Meeting**

# Supporting Wardens in their service to meetings

“As Friends, we cannot separate our religious calling from our practical work for the kingdom of God.” Quaker Faith & Practice 13.32

There are many different job titles, for those who work for Friends in their meeting houses. Some are called Wardens, others Resident Friends, Managers, or Caretakers. Whatever the work is called, it is often undertaken as a form of religious service, combining the spiritual with the practical. Wardenship committee works to sustain and nourish Quaker employees in this work and to explore ways of developing the role and sharing best practice. The wardenship role can often be an isolated one and we seek to help employees to network with each other, whether through workshops or events, the Wardenship e-group, or our web based news and information exchange. We provide a listening ear, information and access to resources through our Wardenship Advice Line.

## Resources and Advice for Employers

“Meetings employing a warden are urged to consult with Quaker Life Wardenship Committee, to ensure that good practice is observed in their meeting.” Quaker Faith & Practice 13.37

The role of the meeting as an employer, carries with it responsibility for ensuring good employment practice. There are also legal responsibilities that come with the role of employer. Quaker Life Wardenship Committee seeks to find ways to disseminate good employment practice and knowledge of employer’s legal liabilities. We organize training for Friends as employers and provide a resources guide to employment, listing readily available sources of information on legislation and good practice. This is supplemented by briefing papers on specific topics, which are available on the Britain Yearly Meeting Web site, or by post from Quaker Life. Friends are invited to contact the committee before embarking on staff recruitment, so that we can provide advice and support. We also provide advice and support in cases of difficulty.

## Get involved

- Contact Wardenship Committee for advice
- Attend a Wardenship Committee event
- Join the Wardenship e-group
- Visit the Wardenship pages on the Britain Yearly Meeting web site
- Ask for the Resources Guide
- Let us know how we can support you better

“We felt it was very important to ask for advice from Wardenship Committee, and a meeting was quickly arranged. This reassured us that our plans were realistic, and saved us, we hope, from making mistakes when arranging to employ somebody”. Saffron Walden Meeting

### Contact

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Quaker Life works with Friends in their meetings and with other local and national committees to help deepen experience of God’s grace and its consequent expression in all our lives and in our meetings. It seeks to nurture the worshipping community of Britain Yearly Meeting, developing it into an inclusive community.

*Quaker faith & practice 8.08*