

New Contribution Materials 2021

Britain
Yearly
Meeting



Dear Friend

When I wrote to you about Contributions a year ago, who would have imagined the changed world we find ourselves living in now?

A challenge to us all

The pandemic has changed the way we live and worship as Quaker communities. It has brought uncertainty to the plans we make. Our recent Treasurers' Survey showed that the finances of many meetings have been affected by Covid-19, particularly those that depend upon lettings income.

Britain Yearly Meeting has faced this challenge on a large scale. Income from Friends House and Swarthmoor Hall will be down £3.5m this year. It is hard to predict when this income will return. The Government's furlough scheme has helped, but dealing with this challenge will have reduced our unrestricted reserves by at least £2m by the end of 2020.

We are aiming now for a balanced budget in 2023, which will involve facing some tough decisions on reducing staff costs and prioritising our work. But we are determined to stick to our mission of delivering the collective work of Quakers in Britain – supporting our faith and witnessing to the world.

These challenges mean our support from meetings and Friends is even more important. We were heartened by responses to the survey that showed how much willingness there is, despite these difficult times, to support the work of BYM.

Contribution materials

The new contribution materials are available at www.quaker.org.uk/contributions in PDF format. Meetings have been invited to request paper copies through an online form and may enquire at contributions@quaker.org.uk if they have missed the deadline.

We know that you use this material in different ways, but we hope that one way or another, every Friend and attender will get to see the leaflet. It shows how their generosity supports the collective work of Quakers.

It is our hope that every member and attender have the opportunity to support the centrally managed work of Quakers. We need you, treasurers and collectors, to help us reach as many members and attenders across the country as possible.

Presentation

This year, in addition to the leaflet, we have created a presentation that you can use in local and area meetings. This is available at www.quaker.org.uk/contributions. If you have any queries or concerns, please do get in touch with our fundraising team who will be happy to support you.

see overleaf

Thank You

Thank you for this work that you do on behalf of the Yearly Meeting, our centrally managed work couldn't happen without your help. Contributions from Friends and meetings will be crucial this year and in the coming years, to enable us to continue to do the work in the world we hold dear.

Finally, I find this quote from *Quaker faith & practice* a good reminder for myself and Friends in my meeting of why it's crucial that we support our centrally managed work.

'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.' *Qf&p* 14.05

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Batten". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Linda" and last name "Batten" clearly distinguishable.

Linda Batten

Yearly Meeting Treasurer