

Quaker News



An update on Quaker work in the care of Britain Yearly Meeting



Responding to forced migration

No. 97 – Winter/spring 2017

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Cover image: Refugees from Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq queue for a boat to Athens. Britain Yearly Meeting recently launched a new programme to explore how Quakers can respond to forced migration (see page 3). The programme will run for three years initially and is being funded by legacies (see page 14). (The people in the photo were given immediate aid by CAFOD.) Photo: Ben White for CAFOD / Flickr CC BY-NC-ND

Editorial

“True godliness don’t turn [people] out of the world but enables them to live better in it and excites their endeavours to mend it... Christians should keep the helm and guide the vessel to its port; not meanly steal out at the stern of the world and leave those... in it without a pilot to be driven by the fury of evil times upon the rock or sand of ruin.”

William Penn, 1682

Early Quakers like William Penn recognised that the path of faithfulness involves us not just in worship and devotion, but draws us into action in the world. In 2017 – a year that will see Yearly Meeting Gathering (page 12) focus on movement-building – this issue of Quaker News shows how we are continuing the tradition early Friends began.

The Spirit can lead us in unfamiliar and surprising directions. Some Friends (pages 8 and 9) are led into universities, hospitals and the justice system – encountering that of God in students, patients and prisoners. They provide a listening ear, a tender hand, and – for those who want it – a chance to experience Quaker worship.

For others, the call is to work with refugees (page 3), helping our country to recognise the common humanity of those exiled from their

own communities, extending a welcome and providing them with a place of support and safety.

Quakers have worked for peace tirelessly over the last 365 years. One of the hallmarks of this work is our commitment to the long haul. After the world’s short attention span has moved on, Quakers continue to support those called to build peace in former Yugoslavia (page 6) and elsewhere.

Friends who have trodden this path before us continue to inspire. The life of Kathleen Lonsdale (page 11), whose name now lends itself to one of the newly refurbished rooms at Friends House in London, has much to teach us today. Would we be so insightful, so brave?

For this Quaker work to happen, Britain Yearly Meeting (our national organisation) needs people, and it needs money. Investing in people by providing opportunities to gain experience in facilitation, leadership and the workplace (pages 4 and 5), is a priority. And the money we are so generously given by Quakers and others, through their wills and lifetime contributions (pages 14 and 15), allows new expressions of Quaker witness to thrive.

The call to ‘mend the world’ is as loud as ever. How will you respond?

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk

Quaker News

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Britain Yearly Meeting works on behalf of Quakers in Britain, supporting the Quaker faith and putting Quaker values to work in the world. It is a registered charity, number 1127633.

Quakers try to live simply and sustainably, promoting peace, equality and truth. Putting faith into action is central to their way of life and they gather weekly for quiet worship, usually on a Sunday, in around 480 locations across Britain.

You are welcome to any Quaker meeting for worship. Find your local meeting, and more information about us, at www.quaker.org.uk.

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Please don’t throw this magazine away – pass it on to others to read or recycle it.

New programme explores how Quakers can respond to refugee crisis

Europe is experiencing the largest number of refugees since World War II. This is bringing attention to a steadily growing global crisis of human displacement, born of war, inequality and environmental degradation. More than 50% of people fleeing their homes are escaping countries formerly colonised by Britain. Despite this, the UK currently hosts less than 0.5% of the world's refugees.

According to a 2016 survey by our national representative body Meeting for Sufferings, more local Quaker meetings are working to welcome people forced to flee their homes than on any other issue. Responses include setting up and supporting City of Sanctuary groups, befriending newcomers, protesting at detention

centres, sourcing and providing accommodation for refugees, sending donations to Calais and in some cases helping out in refugee camps in person.

On a national level, Quakers have joined with others to call on the government to take a fair and proportionate share of refugees from both Europe and beyond and to establish safe and legal routes to the UK.

In recognition of the current situation, of Quakers' heritage of helping refugees and of the significant concern being shown by local meetings, Meeting for Sufferings has requested the scoping of a centrally managed programme to support Quakers in Britain to take action and advocate for change together. We hope that

the resultant programme will also play a part in changing the present hostile media attitude towards migrants.

A process of discernment of options will take place during spring 2017, including a threshing-tour of meetings. We would love to hear about any action you or your meeting are already taking to improve the lives of refugees. If you would like to share your experience or ideas, or find out more about the tour, please get in touch with the Forced Migration Programme Developer using the details below.

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Quakers join other faiths to speak out about climate change

Area meetings across Britain are divesting their finances from fossil fuels. As important as this practical act is, we need also to transform it into advocacy work and influence. So in December, at the time of the 22nd UN climate negotiations in Marrakesh, we put our name to a global interfaith statement on climate change, handed to United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

The statement calls on nations to justly manage the transition to a low-carbon economy and urges governments to shift investments in fossil fuel into renewable energy. It also demands that faith communities achieve more commitments to divest from fossil fuels and invest in renewable alternatives.

On signing the statement Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Quakers in Britain, said: "Quakers in Britain are committed

to becoming a low-carbon, sustainable community and have divested, as a national church, from companies involved in fossil fuel extraction. We recognise that we do not own the world, and its riches are not ours to dispose of at will. Our faith as Quakers is inseparable from our care for the health of our planet Earth. We see that our misuse of the Earth's resources creates inequality, destroys community, affects health and wellbeing, leads to war and erodes our integrity. We are all responsible for stewardship of our natural world. We love this world as God's gift to us all."

It is the practical action of fossil fuel divestment, and reinvestment in the alternative, that enables us to have this voice. We encourage meetings to continue on their journeys towards divestment – you can contact Sunniva Taylor, Sustainability & Peace Programme

Manager, for support or to update her on your progress. By keeping us informed you can help us to create a network of meetings that can support each other, to share positive stories and to advocate more strongly for sustainable living and climate justice.

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Photo: Mike Pinches for BYM

Growing leadership

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From participant to facilitator – one young Quaker reflects on learning to support and lead events.

Becky Garnault, South Wales Area Meeting

In October I was a facilitator on the Facilitation and Leadership training weekend at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. The weekend is for 15- to 21-year-old Quakers, to help them develop the skills involved in planning and facilitating events. The aim is for the participants to become peer leaders – at Quaker events and beyond.

The course has transformed over the years. I first experienced it as a participant when I was 15. I had been the clerk of my age-group's closing business meeting at my very first national event, and this sparked my interest in attending the course. It was the start of a journey of personal and spiritual growth in leadership. I remember my experience of the weekend being a daunting one, and feeling very young and surrounded by Quaker methods and language that were foreign to me. But it led me to move on from being a participant of the local children's meeting in Cardiff to having the skills and confidence to organise the South

Wales Link Group, which I felt was important to enriching the bonds of young people in our area meeting.

I was then a base group facilitator at Junior Yearly Meeting 2009, leading a group of young people during the week-long Yearly Meeting Gathering in York. I later made the transition to becoming an adult volunteer at Junior Yearly Meeting, as well as becoming a trainee facilitator for Facilitation and Leadership.

Young people are vital to the life of Quakers in Britain, and nurturing our skills and confidence allows us to flourish.

This year I felt that I thrived in my new role as a lead facilitator. Most recently I have been led to complete Woodbrooke's Young Adult Leadership Programme, which I felt was the next step in my progression and it certainly will not be the last.

Find out more

The Facilitation and Leadership weekend next takes place at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre on 20–22 October 2017. Visit www.yqspace.org.uk/facilitation-and-leadership-2017 for more information or to book.

The Woodbrooke Young Adult Leadership Programme is for people aged 19 to 30. If you are interested – or know someone else at your meeting or in your family who may be – please visit <http://bit.ly/YALP2017> to find out more.

What has been most fulfilling all the way along is the recognition that young people are vital to the life of Quakers in Britain, and that nurturing our skills and confidence allows us to flourish. Each year the content of Facilitation and Leadership continues to be reviewed, adapted and updated – keeping it relevant and interesting. The feedback from participants is crucial in its regeneration – and as part of the programme we emphasise the importance of reviewing in the learning process. Bringing together young Friends who are like-minded, we create a learning community where people feel safe to try out new ideas and share experiences and feed back to one another confidently.

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Participants of the 2016 Facilitation and Leadership weekend. Photo: Cat Waithaka

Investing in interns

Our internships give career-starters room to grow and gain experience. Hear from three about their diverse work.

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk

From organising a staff conference for 140 people to volunteering at a Quaker youth event; from maintaining the Young Friends General Meeting website to collating membership information on a database; from supporting colleagues with operational planning to researching how young adults feel about Quakerism: Britain Yearly Meeting's interns have an interesting and varied time!

We are keen to provide opportunities for people starting on their career journey. To make sure our internships are open to all, they are paid on the same terms and conditions as all other Britain Yearly Meeting staff, and include opportunities for personal development such as a youth work qualification or Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre's Young Adult Leadership Programme.

Currently we recruit at least three interns a year, and sometimes also place people with other organisations – this year one of our interns is attached to Housing Justice, the churches' national housing charity. These are in addition to our longstanding Peaceworker scheme, which supports people and organisations in the peace movement particularly. We also offer part-time apprenticeships in the hospitality company at Friends House, aimed at helping women in the Camden area back to paid employment after having children.

Rachel Evans – Young Friends General Meeting Coordinator

"Working for Britain Yearly Meeting has given me insights into the organisation that I would never otherwise have had. Before

I started I had no idea of the number of different committees and projects that BYM supports. The flexibility of the internship programme has meant that I've been able to choose to work on projects that interest me and have gained experience working with a number of different teams."

Tilly Goodwin – Recording Clerk's Office Intern

"I feel really lucky to be working in the Recording Clerk's Office because this gives me an overview of the whole organisation, as well as the flexibility to work on lots of different projects. I've just finished a piece of research for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, where I analysed the impact the advocacy work of returned ecumenical accompaniers has on their local members of parliament. It's fun to produce things that are actually useful, and the variety of my work means that I'm learning new skills all the time."

Jethro Jeorrett – Children & Young People's Team Intern

"As an intern in the Children & Young People's Team I am directly contributing to the organisation and facilitation of events for young Quakers, and to resources for those working with young people in a Quaker setting. Being involved in different projects means that my role is always varied, and frequently challenges me. I am learning a huge amount, both through the work that I am doing and through a youth work course that I am being supported to complete as part of the internship."

Internships start in September each year and are advertised between February and May at www.quaker.org.uk/jobs. For information about the Peaceworker scheme see www.quaker.org.uk/peaceworkers. For information about Camden apprenticeships see <http://bit.ly/CamdenBYM>.



Rachel Evans, Tilly Goodwin and Jethro Jeorrett. Photo: Michael Preston for BYM

Committed to peace

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Funding of 2016 summer retreat marks 25 years of Quaker support for peacebuilders in former Yugoslavia.

Ann Pfeiffer, Grants Programme Officer

How can we foster peace in a post-conflict environment? How can people be supported to transcend war and violence, and rebuild communities made up of individuals who were previously on opposing sides? These are questions that Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) peaceworkers in the former Yugoslavia sought to answer following the conflict in the region.

It's been over 25 years since QPSW began supporting peace work in this area. Initially this was just solidarity and small amounts of funding for local peace groups, but in 2002 the Dealing with the Past Programme was launched, with the aim of building a regional network of activists and groups committed to working towards truth and reconciliation. In 2008 we began a devolution process to gradually step back, and the Post Yugoslav Peace Link (PYPL) informal group was established as a means of continuing the Quaker connection with the now-independent peace organisations.

During the Dealing with the Past Programme an annual Summer Peace Retreat for peaceworkers from the different countries of former Yugoslavia was established. These local volunteers – who were working in an environment of trauma, grief and danger, often in very isolated circumstances – carried a heavy burden. They had not only experienced war, but were now working to transform the conflict that remained. The retreats give the peaceworkers the opportunity to gather together and engage with each other for internal renewal and spiritual replenishment. We have funded nine retreats since 2004, latterly through two QPSW Relief Grants.

Many of the people who have attended the peace retreats come from Bosnia Herzegovina, Croatia and Serbia, and are unpaid peace activists working for the healing of their communities in addition to any paid work that they might have. They come from a variety of religious backgrounds, cultures and conflict experience, which can

lead to challenging exchanges. As one participant commented: "It was a problem for me to get into discussions on issues with war veterans' points of view. That part drained my energy." But the value of this opportunity to recuperate is evident from many other comments: "[the] retreat brought me back to myself and has reminded me of the deepest values of my life, how important it is to look after myself so I could help others."

PYPL has helped local peacebuilders to keep the retreats going since Dealing with the Past was laid down, and more recently has embarked upon a training-the-trainer programme. Running alongside retreats, experienced facilitators will provide coaching and mentoring to help less-experienced colleagues develop the skills and knowledge required to deliver the retreats themselves.

Britain Yearly Meeting's support for the peace process has evolved over the years, with a reduction in direct involvement in favour of helping create a more sustainable, autonomous model, which will hopefully be able to continue as long as necessary. We know that our efforts have been valued by the participants. As one put it, "Thank you Quakers for supporting this project, thanks to God they haven't given up on retreats. There are still more people who need this."

You can find out more about Quaker peace work in the former Yugoslavia by reading To trust a spark by Anne Bennett, available from the Quaker Centre Bookshop (020 7663 1030; quakercentre@quaker.org.uk).



Grožnjan in Croatia has been a location for peace retreats. Painting by Penny Robbins.
Photo: Melissa Atkinson for BYM

Learning and growing together

How Quaker meetings are using online resources to nourish and strengthen their communities.

Alistair Fuller, Head of Ministry & Outreach

Many Quaker meetings have found that one of the best ways to deepen and strengthen the life of their community is to take the time to learn, listen and reflect together. By hearing each other's stories and exploring together the riches of our Quaker tradition, we can deepen our own sense of what it means to be a Quaker, as well as feeling more connected with one another.

Being Friends Together is an online resource that offers a rich library of materials and ideas for this kind of learning. Meetings can explore themes of being in the world, deepening the life of the Spirit, exploring Quaker tradition and strengthening our communities. There is a collection of workshops for engaging with our book of discipline, *Quaker faith & practice*, and also lots of resources for working with children and young people.

Kathy Chandler is part of Lancaster Meeting, which has used Being Friends Together in a few different ways:

"Our meeting has had Being Friends Together membership for two years now. It has been used for a variety of purposes: for a small discussion group that meets regularly, for a meeting weekend away at Glenthorne Quaker Centre and for individual learning.

By hearing each other's stories and exploring together the riches of our tradition, we can deepen our own sense of what it means to be a Quaker.

"Recently, elders and overseers thought it would be helpful to have an opportunity for the whole meeting to discuss the pastoral and spiritual care of the meeting, recognising that these are the responsibility of all of us. Two of us agreed to facilitate a discussion one Sunday after meeting for worship and went away to look for a helpful activity to start us off. We found exactly what we needed in

Being Friends Together: an activity about building community where we are.

"The activity encouraged us to think about our own meeting, viewing the current situation with 'soft eyes'. We imagined what the ideal meeting might be like. We did this in small groups, thinking about what a visitor to our ideal meeting might experience, how things might be different for each of us and how we ourselves might be different. We then went on to share specific ideas about what would make Lancaster Meeting a more nourishing place to worship and what would make it a more nourishing community. A wide-ranging, fairly practical list was produced. We thought about the smallest, easiest steps that could be taken towards our ideas and how each of us might take responsibility for them.

"This discussion happened three months ago and some of the small, easy steps have already been taken. Using Being Friends Together was an excellent way to start this process."

You can find Being Friends Together at <http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>. If you would like any help with using it please get in touch. During 2017 we will be running a series of workshops on how to make the most of Being Friends Together – details will be available at www.quaker.org.uk/events in the spring.

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'Charney Solar' (2011) by John Perkin. Photo: Paul High, Newbury Quakers

Answering that of God

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Quaker chaplains speak about the challenges and rewards of working in hospitals, prisons and universities.

Marleen Schepers, Chaplains Support Officer

There are currently around 150 Quakers serving as ministers, visitors and chaplains in British prisons, colleges and hospitals. We asked three of them to tell us about their experiences and what advice they would give anyone considering serving as chaplain.

Joannie Harrison, Quaker chaplain at Peterborough City Hospital



I have been a hospital chaplain since January 2012. It is a paid post: I am employed to provide pastoral, spiritual and religious support to all who enter the hospital – patients, staff and visitors. I love my job, and the diversity of experiences I encounter. I never lose sight of the fact that I am representing Quakers. I have lost count of the number of times people have said, “I’ve never met a Quaker before...” – outreach just happens.

Hospital chaplains are mostly called in times of crisis. Much of my work is in A&E, critical care, and – sadly – maternity. We are also involved in end-of-life care and when patients have received bad news: times when people seek

answers to questions they’ve never had to ask.

As Quakers we don’t claim to have definitive answers. We meet in those things which are eternal, where the temptation to put a sticking plaster over a gaping wound is recognised as totally ineffective. Vulnerability creates a unique bond, and it’s this connectedness that makes the difference to people. This same connectedness sustains me in my chaplaincy work – what drains me, feeds me.

“I try to create a ‘thin place’, a calm stillness for God’s presence to be felt. It’s about being authentic, being with people in that dark place, allowing myself to be vulnerable.”

Joannie Harrison

Sometimes I am given words, but silence too can be a powerful healing tool, or prayer. I try to create a ‘thin place’, a calm stillness for God’s presence to be felt. It’s about being authentic, being with people in that dark place, allowing myself to be vulnerable; letting God in, and accompanying them. At these times I feel completely the person God intends me to be.

If you are considering becoming a hospital chaplain, be prepared to be challenged, and to leave a situation not knowing whether you have got it right. But also be prepared to experience transformation: shifts can take place, healing can happen, a sense of wholeness can be realised.

Nim Njuguna, Quaker chaplain at HMP Wormwood Scrubs



Photo: Michael Preston for BYM

Wormwood Scrubs is a Victorian prison recently described in an inspectors’ report as having “levels of Dickensian squalor which ought to have been consigned to the history books”. ‘The Scrubs’ is also a place where one encounters resilience and friendship – often demonstrated in mutual support among prisoners and among many of those who work there. We have a committed multifaith chaplaincy team that creates opportunities for safe conversations about a loving God, and stresses that ‘failure is not final’.

The Scrubs is a microcosm of society, where you find victims of economic mismanagement and poverty, people compromised by drug and alcohol abuse, self-harm, family brokenness and much more. The 1,200 prisoners are fathers, sons and husbands, and a growing number are living with mental health problems, personality and behavioural issues. There are also prisoners from other countries, who talk of loneliness and their fear of

deportation to places where they may be at risk of torture.

I believe that all human beings, from all walks of life – no matter who they are or what they have done – possess an intrinsic God-given worth and dignity. This belief is instrumental in my service as prison chaplain. I meet prisoners at a point of shared common humanity and offer a compassionate listening ear, encouraging them to consider forgiving themselves, to take responsibility for their crimes, and to dare to dream of an alternative future.

Although prison ministry can at times be incredibly challenging spiritually, physically and intellectually, it is highly rewarding when approached with an open mind, compassion and humility. However, if you are the kind of person who never goes off the beaten tracks and follows the holiday brochure to the letter, this ministry may not be for you.

Phil Chandler, Quaker chaplain at Lancaster University



I'll be honest, it was never my intention to be a university chaplain.

Lancaster University, where I work in IT, is somewhat unusual in that it is the home of Bailrigg Local Meeting. The meeting, on Monday lunchtimes in the Chaplaincy Centre, serves the university student and staff community, as well as others from off campus. From its membership traditionally comes the Quaker chaplain, an appointment recognised by the university. The previous chaplains



Quaker Prison Chaplains Committee. L to R: Marleen Schepers, Denise Renshaw, Judy Roles, Douglas Butterfield, Carol Robinson, Elizabeth Turnbull, Nim Njuguna and Fran Hewett. Photo: Michael Preston for BYM

had served longer than was reasonable to ask of them and it was time for someone else to step into their shoes. I felt deeply uncertain about the idea but also recognised the importance of having a Quaker contact on campus, as well as maintaining links with the university and the Chaplaincy Centre.

I was warmly welcomed by the full-time chaplains: testament to the good work of my predecessors, as well as the strong interfaith relationships here at Lancaster. I was encouraged to take part in the heat, noise and mayhem that is Freshers' Fair, which is exhausting but exhilarating.

I work with the Buddhist contact on campus to organise 'Faithshare' discussions, and have helped prepare and serve meals for 80 people in the chaplaincy café.

I was privileged to be asked to take part in a review of chaplaincy working, serving as a 'critical friend' to the full-time team, and at times taking a role that perhaps could be seen as a 'chaplain to the chaplains'.

Would I recommend it? I think it would have been very hard if I had been going into a situation not previously prepared by a number of fine Friends before me, but that's me; some enjoy the challenge of trailblazing.

As it happens it has mainly been fun and rewarding and I thank my colleagues of all faith groups for that.

Could you be a Quaker chaplain?

The role of chaplain is a demanding one, encompassing eldership, oversight and outreach. Yet it offers great rewards and the chance to support individuals as they grow in their spiritual lives. If you are able to talk about your experience of the divine and are comfortable listening to others this might be a form of ministry for you.

We are particularly keen to grow the Quaker presence in universities. Amongst the student body there may be young people who have come from a Quaker family or a Quaker school. For them Quaker worship might be familiar, but as they explore their own leadings they might benefit from gentle nurture and listening. Others may be just starting out on their spiritual journey: if the Quaker way is for them, they need to know that we exist. We hope that local meetings based near a college or university will consider whether this is an area in which they could take action.

If you feel led to explore your gifts as a university, hospital or prison chaplain, please get in touch. We can send you a free handbook and tell you more about the role and the support we can provide – including training, conferences and retreats.

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A library service for the 21st century

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Britain's biggest Quaker libraries are working together to explore how digital technology can help us preserve and share our heritage.

Adrienne Speake, Project Manager: Joint Libraries Development Project

Libraries are a part of Quakerism: recording our history, acting as a resource for learning, supporting research and providing stimulation and challenge. These libraries do not only tell the story of the past, they are constantly being added to, recording the thinking and actions of Quakers today.

This year a project was launched involving two of the largest collections of Quaker literature in the world: the Library of the Society of Friends (based at Friends House in London) and the library at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham.

Technology now plays a huge part in information seeking and delivery. It can also help us to conserve and preserve our heritage for future generations. The Joint Libraries Development Project is exploring how the two Quaker libraries might work collaboratively to develop our use of digital technologies. By working together,

avoiding duplication of work and pooling resources where it makes sense to do so, we hope to be able to share far more widely the wealth of material and resources which we currently hold. One possibility we will be exploring is a shared digital library of some of the manuscripts, books, pictures and artefacts in our collections.

The project is being overseen by the Joint Libraries Development Group, which includes members from both organisations. The group's vision is to develop a joint library service that is "a welcoming, accessible service supporting and informing all who seek to increase their knowledge or experience of Quaker faith, practice and witness".

I was appointed project manager in July 2016 and am engaging with Friends and others to understand what is needed from a Quaker library service in the 21st century. Working together, Britain Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke will then

Online survey

You can tell us your views on how you would like to see the joint library service develop by taking part in our online survey, which is available at <http://bit.ly/jointlibrarysurvey> until the end of February 2017.

explore how best to deliver this.

Holding printed materials, paintings, photographs and other objects, the Library of the Society of Friends aims to be representative of Quakerism through its history to the present day. The Library can trace its origins back to 1673, when the Morning Meeting of ministers decided to procure two copies of everything written by Quakers and one copy of everything written against them. As a result the Library today holds a rich collection of 17th-century Quaker and anti-Quaker literature, along with the Religious Society of Friends' records dating back to the same period.

The library at Woodbrooke is an integral part of the learning programme, as well as supporting independent learning and research. It holds a wide range of material selected to support courses run on-site, on-the-road and online. The archive preserves the institutional records of Woodbrooke and fosters a sense of the continuity of Friends' ministry.

In its efforts to embrace technology, the project group is keen not to lose sight of the purpose of the libraries: preserving and providing Quaker information for living and learning.



Friends House and Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre library staff in the Library at Friends House, London. Photo: Michael Preston for BYM

Putting a name to a space

Fifteen figures from our 365-year history have lent their names to meeting rooms in Friends House, helping to put the building's Quaker identity front-and-centre.

Anne van Staveren, Media Relations Officer

As well as hosting the central offices of Quakers in Britain, Friends House in London lets out meeting and conference space to generate income – covering the building's running costs and helping to fund Quaker work.

As part of a major refurbishment of the meeting rooms, each has been named after a figure from our 365-year history. Informative nameplates will help visitors find out more about us in an act of simple outreach.

Names have been chosen to reflect the breadth of Quaker influence and achievement. The list includes well-known and lesser-known Quakers because – in death as in life – Quakers see God in everyone, and that leads us to consider that all are equal, all are part of the fabric of the Society.

Chemist and physicist Kathleen Lonsdale lends her name not only to a room in Friends House, but also to a rare form of diamond. Lonsdaleite – formed when meteorites containing graphite strike the Earth – was named in

honour of her work on the synthesis of diamonds. She had a profound influence on the development of X-ray crystallography and wrote many articles and books about Christianity and science.

Kathleen Lonsdale and her husband became Quakers in 1935. They were both committed pacifists, and Kathleen spent a short time in prison during World War II because she refused to register for civil defence duties or pay a fine for refusing to register.

"Christ was crucified; Gandhi was assassinated," she wrote in her 1953 lecture, *Removing the causes of war*, "Yet they did not fail. Nor did they leave behind them the hatred, devastation and bitterness that war, successful or unsuccessful, does leave."

Marjorie Sykes was born in Mexborough, Yorkshire, and became a Quaker in 1936. Having trained as a teacher, she went to India in 1928. She spent much of her life there, later taking dual nationality.

With the Madras International Fellowship, she endeavoured to subvert the social barriers keeping Indians and Europeans apart. She met Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and Rabindranath Tagore and became involved with the Indian independence movement, carrying on Gandhi's constructive programme to improve life in India's villages. She joined with Vinoba Bhave training volunteers for a nonviolent 'peace army'.

Today, Quaker work for a more peaceful world continues with projects in many places of tension, developing skills to build communities and finding nonviolent solutions to conflict.



Kathleen Lonsdale

The Friends House 15

Abraham Darby I (1678–1717)
pioneering industrialist

Ada Salter (1866–1942) pacifist, campaigner for social housing

Bayard Rustin (1912–1987)
campaigner for racial justice

Elizabeth Fry (1780–1845)
penal reformer, philanthropist

George Bradshaw (1800–1853)
publisher and cartographer

George Fox (1624–1691)
founder of Quaker movement

Hilda Clark (1881–1955)
doctor and pacifist

John Woolman (1720–1772)
influenced British Quakers' views on abolition of slavery

Kathleen Lonsdale (1903–1971)
chemist and physicist

Lucretia Mott (1793–1880)
campaigner for women's rights and abolition of slavery

Margaret Fell (1614–1702)
key figure in establishing the Quaker church

Marjorie Sykes (1905–1995)
educator and mediator

Sarah Fell (1642–1714)
preacher and local banker

Waldo Williams (1904–1971)
poet, pacifist and anti-war campaigner

William Penn (1644–1718)
preacher, founder of the state of Pennsylvania

Stamps for social action

In 2016 Quaker Peace & Social Witness stamp club raised over £10,000 for Quaker work – its highest ever annual total. This was possible thanks to those who donate stamps and the volunteers who give their time to sort them.

Stamp club has been running for some 50 years. It meets every other month at Friends House in London to sort through stamps, most of which are sent in by Friends or left as collections in wills. The money raised supports a huge range of work, from challenging militarism in Britain to supporting Quaker meetings to become more sustainable. Every penny counts and so does every stamp.

Stamp club needs both stamps and volunteers to raise money, and is particularly interested in hearing from anyone with specialist knowledge who can help prepare collections for auction. To volunteer or find out more get in touch with Helen Bradford at helenb@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1071.

You can post stamps to: QPSW Stamp Club, Friends House, London, NW1 2BJ. If the stamps are already stuck to paper, please leave them attached with a 1cm margin. Commemorative stamps, Chinese stamps and those from the old commonwealth can be valuable, but stamp club would prefer not to receive ordinary UK first-class, second-class or Christmas stamps, as these do not raise any money.



Photo: Blake Humphries for BYM

Quakers and credit unions

Quakers in North Wales have formed a credit union group. They plan to explore and expand Quaker involvement in credit unions by finding out what is happening already, building a network of those interested, and offering support. Quaker Peace & Social Witness is helping them through a Sustainability & New Economy Grant. You can help them too by filling out their questionnaire.

Credit unions are non-profit cooperative organisations that offer financial services such as current and savings accounts and affordable loans. As the members, rather than profit, are the priority, credit unions are able to offer loans and savings to those who are unable to get them from banks. This is a much needed alternative to payday loans and loan sharks.

Credit unions are one way that Quakers can support a better financial system. If you'd like to help North Wales Credit Union Group with this work, please visit <http://bit.ly/Qcredit> and complete their questionnaire.

A spirit-led church

There is now a study guide for *A spirit-led church* and members of the Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations (QCCIR) are keen to visit meetings to talk about their work.

QCCIR wrote *A spirit-led church* in response to the World Council of Churches' *Towards a common vision* paper. It represents a formal, international acknowledgment of the position of British Quakers and what it means to be a peace church today. *A spirit-led church* and the study guide are both available at www.quaker.org.uk/interfaithresource. You can phone Marigold Bentley on 020 7663 1060 for more information. To request a visit to your meeting from a member of QCCIR please email meetingrelations@quaker.org.uk.

Yearly Meeting Gathering – booking now open!

Booking is now open for Yearly Meeting Gathering (YMG), which takes place from 29 July–5 August 2017 at the University of Warwick. Join in and help build a warm and vibrant community.

YMG is a week-long residential event held every three years. It includes time for community, business, and fun. This year will conclude the consideration of 'Living out our faith in the world' by focusing on movement-building.

There will be time to engage with movement-building in and out of formal sessions, and for everyone to create their own mix of activities from a wealth of possibilities.

To book and find out more, go to www.quaker.org.uk/ym. For help, email us at ym@quaker.org.uk or phone us on 020 7663 1040.



Skill up for collective action

Redland Quaker Meeting is teaming up with Turning the Tide to host a series of three one-day workshops on taking collective action for social change – and you can too.

The 'Active Witness' course is free and supports Quakers to understand power and social change, learn practical tools for making meaningful contributions and experience collaborating with like-minded Friends.

Would people in your area be interested in such a course? Meetings are invited to work with Turning the Tide to host courses.

To find out more, email us at turningtide@quaker.org.uk or phone us on 020 7663 1064.

Exploring mental health as individuals and meetings

Help is available for meetings that would like to explore issues around mental health. A newly published leaflet gives ideas for using the book *Encounters with mental distress: Quaker stories* and offers safe ways to explore the themes covered in the book.

The Quaker Life Network Mental Health in Meetings Cluster is also hoping to offer workshops and further resources to meetings.

Find the leaflet online at www.quaker.org.uk/documents/encounters-accompaniment or contact Oliver Waterhouse for information at oliverw@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1007.

Vibrancy in meetings

The Vibrancy in Meetings Pilot Programme is well underway. This project is doing something new for Quakers – employing locally based staff to help meetings thrive.

So far the Vibrancy team have been getting to know their four respective areas and learning about the work done centrally. From making paper chains in Holyhead and exploring outreach with West Kent Area Meeting, to a barbeque at Rookhow and a pub lunch in Penzance – the team have been connecting to Friends in a variety of ways. They have also spent time at Friends House, Swarthmoor Hall and Woodbrooke.

In time the local development workers hope to work alongside meetings to help Friends and groups connect, manage problems, and develop in different ways.

To find out more you can visit <http://bit.ly/QuakerVibrancy>, email vibrancy@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1039.



Photo: Blake Humphries for BYM

What a week!

In October 2016 meetings up and down the country took part in Quaker Week. Friends welcomed new people to their meetings, reached out with social media, and spoke on local radio. We sent out six times as many enquirers' packs as last year, gained 500 more followers on www.facebook.com/QuakersinBritain and saw our Google search rates rocket.

Next Quaker Week will be 30 September–8 October 2017. Would you like to find out more? Email us at outreach@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1017.

Help for Quaker role-holders

If you hold a role in your meeting such as clerk or treasurer, there is help available for you.

All local meetings have been sent a set of leaflets to support those new to a role. All meetings also have a copy of the *Directory of services*, listing the resources and support available from Britain Yearly Meeting. There is a booklet in the directory for each role.

The work of all role-holders is vital to our local, area, and national meetings. The resources are to support you in that work.

Trustees will travel

Would you like to hear from a Britain Yearly Meeting Trustee? They are keen and available to visit meetings locally.

The Trustees are responsible for the work, assets, and property of Britain Yearly Meeting. They oversee our governance and finances, and employ our staff. You can email meetingrelations@quaker.org.uk to request a visit.

Employers' resource

Does your meeting employ people, on either a paid or voluntary basis? Does your meeting offer accommodation? Would your meeting benefit from some advice?

An updated resource for Quaker employers offers guidance on all of the above and much more.

You can find the resource at www.quaker.org.uk/employers or contact wardenship@quaker.org.uk for employment advice and support.

Meetings on social media

Many of those looking to connect with Quakers might start online with social media. The Outreach Team is providing a new service to help meetings link in.

If you would like help setting up or developing a Facebook page or Twitter account, get in touch by emailing outreach@quaker.org.uk or phoning 020 7663 1059.



Photo: Mike Pinches 2015

Our witness, our stories

Bring and share your stories of witness on www.quaker.org.uk/stories-witness. This is for Friends and meetings to write and read about how they live out their faith in the world. Recent stories range from an urban harvest to challenging militarism in schools.

Political advocacy – working better together

Share your political work and help us build movements for a more just and peaceful world.

For hundreds of years Quakers have pressed policy-makers for the change we want to see. Individuals, meetings and other groups have worked in a variety of ways. Meetings, petitions, calls, letters, and protests all help.

In 2016 such work spurred the Scottish Parliament to investigate armed forces school visits and recruitment. Scottish Quakers and Mairi Campbell-Jack, our Scottish Parliamentary Engagement Officer, worked together to put this on the agenda and keep it there.

In 2017 we want to continue improving links between Quakers and the staff working on their behalf. You can help us by visiting forms.quaker.org.uk/politics and letting us know about your own political work.

Legacies fund new ways to make a difference

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Legacies are funding a new project to explore how Quakers can respond to forced migration. Photo: Ben White for CAFOD / Flickr CC BY-NC-ND

As Quakers, we think about tomorrow. We want to change the world for the better – but we know that it takes time. We value sustainability and good stewardship. So it's no surprise that many Friends choose to leave a gift in their will to support Quaker work in the future.

Legacies make up more than half of our voluntary income, and almost a third of our total income. We rely on these gifts to help fund our core work, and increasingly we use them to fund time-limited projects that would not otherwise have been possible.

This year we are running 11 projects that are funded by legacies, including:

- Responding to Forced Migration: Concern has been growing among Friends about forced migration – particularly into Europe, including the UK. A new three-year programme will scope and deliver an effective response to these well-tested concerns. This work will cost £50k in 2017.
- Housing Justice Internship: Friends want to take action on the worsening inequality in access to housing in Britain today. By placing an intern

with Housing Justice we can play a more active part in tackling the housing crisis whilst drawing on the expertise of an organisation dedicated to working in this area. This work will cost £33k in 2017.

- Property Support for Meetings: This two-year pilot project is developing ways to empower meetings to look after their property confidently and sustainably, so that buildings can be enjoyed as places of community and worship that nourish – rather than drain – the life of the meeting. This work will cost £86k in 2017.

These are just three among many legacy-funded projects that range from strengthening Quaker political advocacy work in Scotland to equipping Kenyan activists to nonviolently challenge injustice. We thank those Friends whose thoughts of tomorrow have made possible the work of today.

If you would like to find out about leaving a legacy to Quaker work in your will, you can contact Leslie Bell, Meeting Relationships Officer, at leslieb@quaker.org.uk or call her in confidence on 020 7663 1019.

Contribute to Quaker work

Serve on a Quaker committee: phone 020 7663 1121, email nominations@quaker.org.uk or visit www.quaker.org.uk/givetime.

Join the Quaker Life Network: phone 020 7663 1007, email qlnetwork@quaker.org.uk or visit www.quaker.org.uk/qlnetwork.

Subscribe to Quaker News

Subscribe to Quaker News by email, access electronic back issues or read online at www.quaker.org.uk/qn.

Subscribe to Quaker News by post, make changes to your subscription or request paper back issues by contacting Leslie Bell on 020 7663 1019 or at qn@quaker.org.uk.

Connect with Quakers in Britain

Phone us on 020 7663 1000, email enquiries@quaker.org.uk or write to Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

Enter your postcode at www.quaker.org.uk/meetings to search for a Quaker meeting near you.

Find us on Facebook and Twitter: click the icons at www.quaker.org.uk or search for 'Quakers in Britain'.



Britain Yearly Meeting

Britain Yearly Meeting works with and on behalf of all Quakers in Britain – supporting the Quaker community, speaking out in the world and acting to promote peace, justice, equality and sustainability.



Open to inspiration

In 2017 we will help bring together an all-age community of around 2,000 Quakers for Yearly Meeting Gathering. Where will the Spirit lead us this time?



Grounded in faith

This year more than 3,000 Quakers in four areas of Britain will benefit from access to a dedicated local worker as part of a pilot project to connect and empower meetings, helping them to thrive.

Sharing our vision

In 2016 we set up media interviews that reached millions of people through national television and radio, raising awareness of Quaker views on issues such as militarism and conscientious objection.



Working for change

Following growing concern among Friends about forced migration, we have launched a new programme to explore how Quakers can make a difference in this area.

How you can contribute

You can give to Britain Yearly Meeting directly or through your local or area meeting – look out for ‘Contribution 2017’ leaflets arriving soon. You can give online and find out about other ways of giving directly by visiting www.quaker.org.uk/give. You can also phone Maisa Monteiro on 020 7663 1015 for help with giving.

Quakers: committed to caring for peace and planet

Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. Their unity is based on shared understanding and a shared practice of silent worship, where they seek a communal stillness.

Quakers seek to experience God directly, within themselves and in their relationships with others and the world around them. They meet together for worship in local meetings, which are open to all who wish to attend.

Quakers try to live with honesty and integrity. This means speaking truth to all, including people in positions of power.

The Quaker commitment to peace arises from the conviction that love is at the heart of existence and that all human beings are unique and equal.

This leads Quakers to put their faith into action by working locally and globally to change the systems that cause injustice and violent conflict.

Quakers try to live simply. They are concerned about the excesses and unfairness of our consumer society and the unsustainable use of natural resources.

To find out more about the Quaker way visit www.quaker.org.uk or request a free information pack using the form below.

Request a free information pack:

Name _____
Address _____

Postcode _____
Email _____

Please send completed form to:
Quaker Outreach (QN)
FREEPOST QUAKERS

FREEPHONE: 0808 109 1651
E: outreach@quaker.org.uk

Meet Elizabeth Turnbull



Elizabeth Turnbull is a member of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Meeting. Over three decades of membership she has served in many Quaker roles, finding her work in prison chaplaincy particularly rewarding.

I was baptised and confirmed as a teenager in the Anglican Church but became disillusioned, entering a desert of atheism for many years. Later, marriage and children found me reflecting on the meaning of life and spirituality. Through a book in the library I was led to 'the people called Quakers'. Reading about Quakers in *Priestland's progress* by Gerald Priestland left me with a profound sense of 'coming home', and I felt moved to find the local Quaker meeting. I became a member about a year later.

That was over 30 years ago and my journey has seen me serving in various roles including as clerk, as overseer and on children's committee. I have served centrally on Quaker Peace & Service Committee (as it then was), and – for the last five years – on Quaker Prison Chaplains Committee.

It is a privilege to serve our community of chaplains and I value working with everyone across the country. The committee oversees the Quaker prison chaplains' work, liaising with prison chaplaincy headquarters and arranging

training – particularly for new chaplains – as well as organising an annual conference. We aim to ensure that every Quaker prisoner has access to a Quaker chaplain.

I was asked if I would consider becoming a prison chaplain about 16 years ago, and I have since served in both men's and women's prisons. Prison ministry can have its challenges and blessings: the highlight of my week is the meeting for worship, in which prisoners join together in shared silence. They find a peaceful, inclusive space (a rarity inside!), in which they can explore spirituality safely. No two days as a chaplain are ever the same, be it drawing alongside a new prisoner trying to come to terms with being inside or attending a meeting to discuss complex prisoners' needs. The rewards are great and the men and women impart more to me than they'll ever know.

If you would like to find out more about serving on a national Quaker committee, please phone 020 7663 1121, email nominations@quaker.org.uk or visit www.quaker.org.uk/service.