

## Dear Friends,

I write to you today with some sadness, as this will be the last edition of *Quaker Voices* in its current form. You may be aware that as part of a broader review of BYM publications, we have been reviewing *Quaker Voices* – its purpose, its aims and how well it fulfils them. Last month, Quaker Life Central Committee considered where we are and we have agreed that we should cease publication.

Thank you all so very much for your support of *Quaker Voices* over the years. You welcomed me so warmly four years ago and I am thankful to have journeyed with you. I am glad to have had this time and space to explore big and small questions about our spiritual lives, from up close and from a range of perspectives. You have helped me to grow immeasurably in my inner life and in how I live my faith in the world.

Walking down the hill into our village last week, I was struck again by how clearly we can see across town in winter. The leaves have fallen off most of our trees and we can see how they have been pruned, lopped and pollarded over the years for the health of the trees and for our safety as well when we walk along and under them. Trees growing in towns and cities grow quite differently from those standing in open fields. On the one hand, their growth is sometimes constrained by limited soil volumes in the pavement; they often grow away from buildings, reaching for more light; their branches are pruned by highways authorities or buses driving by. On the other hand, some are protected by buildings, thriving in their shelter where they might otherwise struggle to survive. All are home to smaller creatures nesting and feeding.

And so are we living our faith out in the world. We are lopped and pruned, sunned and watered, sheltered and giving shelter to one another and to those we meet. We explored 'shape shifting' at the last Quaker Life Representative Council. How much can we change in the ways we nourish our faith and our Society whilst keeping that essence of being Quaker?

Till our paths meet again...



In Friendship,  
*Jennifer Mui, editor*