

New Contribution Materials 2022

Britain
Yearly
Meeting



Dear Friend

Thank You!

I want to start by thanking you for the work you do on behalf of the Yearly Meeting. Our centrally managed work couldn't happen without your help. Contributions from Friends and meetings are crucial to delivering the work that Friends want us to do. We were delighted by the significant increase in contributions last year which showed how much willingness there is, despite these difficult times, to support the Yearly Meeting's work. While other causes receive support from a range of donors, it is primarily Quakers who need to fund Quaker work.

The Road to Recovery

As we travel this unknown road together, the pandemic continues to impact on how we live and worship as Quaker communities. Our second Treasurers' Survey shows that the finances of many meetings are impacted by Covid-19, particularly those that depend upon lettings income.

Britain Yearly Meeting is facing this challenge too. When I wrote to you last year, we had hoped that income from Friends House and Swarthmoor Hall would recover significantly in 2021. But so far, we have just a handful of bookings compared to the trading activity that has been contributing £1m (net of costs) a year to our income. We don't anticipate any profit from the Quiet Company this year.

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

The best way to help sustain this giving is through encouraging Friends and attenders to give regularly. If everyone were to contribute an average of £20 per month (or £240 a year), that would maintain contributions at the increased level of £3m received in 2020. We know that not every Friend will be able to give this amount. So those of us already giving at or above this level need consider whether we can raise our own contribution to share the cost of Quaker work in an equitable way.

We are reliant on all of you, treasurers and collectors, to help reach as many members and attenders as possible with this message on delivering the work Friends want to see.

Contribution materials

A PDF of the new contribution materials is available at www.quaker.org.uk/contributions. If you want to use paper copies, you can order them free at: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/contributions2022>

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 Quaker work. We hope that all members and attenders have the opportunity to support the centrally managed work of Quakers.

Presentation

In addition to the leaflet, we are preparing some presentation material that you can use in local and area meetings. This will also be available at www.quaker.org.uk/contributions.

If you have any queries or concerns, please do get in touch with our fundraising team who are always happy to help.

Finally, I found this quote that features in the 2021 contributions leaflet an inspiring reminder for myself and Friends in my meeting why it's crucial that we support centrally managed work.

"I give because I deeply value the Quaker mix of encouragement for spiritual exploration, work for social justice and equality and environmental concern. Britain Yearly Meeting is us: it both organises our wider contribution to society and nourishes our grass roots." – Margaret Laurie, Quaker

In Friendship,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Linda Batten". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Linda" and "Batten" being significantly larger and more prominent than the rest of the letters.

Linda Batten
Yearly Meeting Treasurer