

**Lighting the way**  
Quaker witness in troubled times



# Lighting the way

## Quaker witness in troubled times

In uncertain times, we look for the light and become bearers of it. With your support, Quaker work has offered clarity, comfort, and courage in difficult times. This year's contribution pack highlights how Friends, led by Spirit and conscience, respond to crises with compassion and conviction. Together, we are lighting the way for a more just and peaceful future.

*Friends need to be more explicit and robust in considering the practice of giving money as well as service for the building up of the community. The spiritual roots of this go deep:*

*And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person's need is met. , Acts 2:44-45, from The Message*

*With privilege comes greater responsibility for the welfare of the community. There is joy and freedom that comes from divesting ourselves of too much power and influence, and in seeing the fruits of our gifts, or trust in what may come of them after we have gone.*

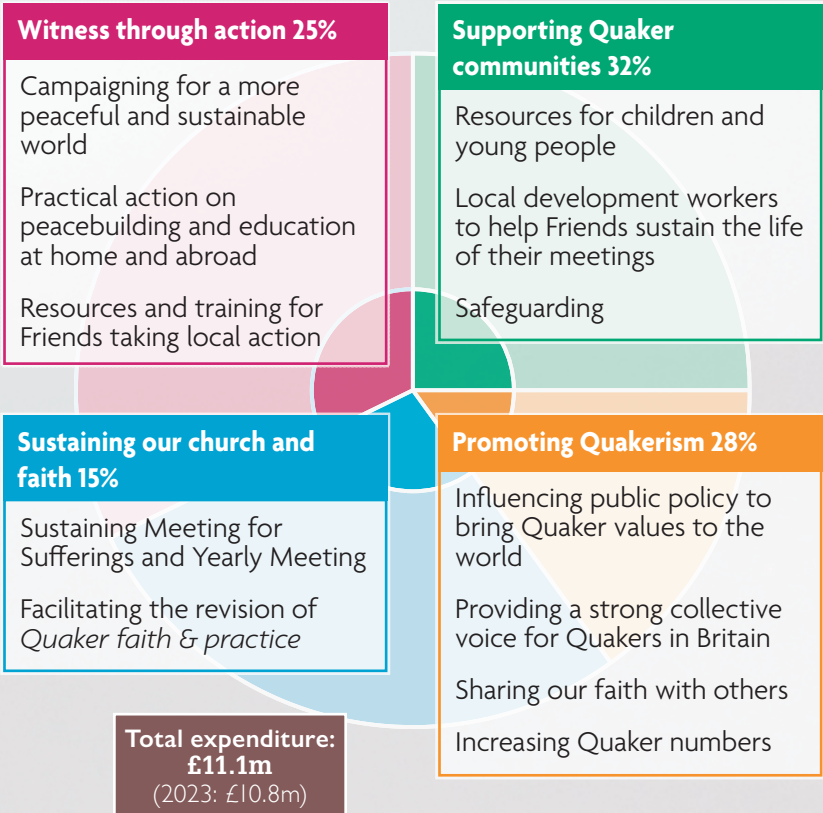
Minute on Giving, BYM Trustees,  
8 February, 2025







**Gifts from Quaker meetings and individuals totalled £2.2m in 2024**



## Revitalising an area meeting Supporting Friends in the West Midlands

When an area meeting faced serious challenges – including the lack of a clerk – Hilary, the Local Development Worker, helped form a volunteer working group. Together, they explored how to support struggling local meetings and strengthen the area meeting as a whole. A day long event, grounded in *Our faith in the future*, brought 40 Friends together for reflection and threshing. This inspired further activities: sessions on George Fox and worship, intervisitation, and Zoom gatherings on trustee support. The results have been stronger engagement, regular online meetings for clerks, and a new energy. A renewed sense of connection is helping Friends focus on outreach and witness.



## Peace education course Launched at The Open University

Rising school exclusions and global anxiety are affecting students' wellbeing. Peace Education offers a hopeful, practical response – building social skills, empathy, and conflict resolution. In 2025, Quakers collaborated with The Open University to launch Principles and Practices of Peace Education, a free 12 hour online course for educators. Over 600 people enrolled, with 80% planning to apply it in their work. A record breaking launch included workshops by Peacemakers and DECSY, and powerful contributions from teachers and young mediators. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive. We now hope to develop a Welsh version – helping embed Peace Education in classrooms across Britain.





## Turning the Tide Burundi

### Civic education ahead of elections

Ahead of Burundi's June 2025 elections, Turning the Tide (TTT) Burundi ran civic education workshops in Mushikamo and Rutegama to promote peaceful coexistence among young people from four political parties. 100 participants were trained in nonviolence, overcoming deep political divides. The workshops led to a joint campaign, including a theatre piece on peaceful coexistence. Participants reported transformative change, with some saying such collaboration was previously unthinkable. TTT Burundi is part of TTT East Africa – a community led peacebuilding programme also active in Kenya and Rwanda. Quaker Peace & Social Witness has supported this grassroots work since 2010.



## Healing the earth, healing ourselves

### Uniting people of faith for climate action

In February 2025, Quakers partnered with Faith for the Climate and Christian Climate Action to host an interfaith climate summit at Friends House, London. The event gathered 150 participants from eight faith traditions to foster collaboration, share spiritual practices, and inspire local climate action. With workshops, panel discussions, and closing Sufi music, the day nurtured hope and resilience. Attendees committed to joint advocacy efforts and community projects. Many left feeling reinvigorated and connected. This summit marks a step toward stronger, long term interfaith partnerships – helping faith communities become more effective, united voices for climate justice and systemic change.





# What does being a Quaker mean to you?

*I have been on the journey for 40 years, it's a way of life. Being a Quaker is all aspects of my life, my friends know I am a Quaker. While I might not succeed in being a Quaker all the time, I try. It's who I am, it is practise what you believe .*

Dawn Beck, Brighouse Area Meeting

*Being a Quaker is at the core of my life and everything I do. I think it's summed up by these words of Caroline Fox Live up to the light thou hast . You can do this better if you have a supportive group around you, whose discernment you trust. I think the social justice and international work that BYM does is really important. Quakers work from an angle I trust and I give to support this work.*

Frances Hill, Wilmslow Local Meeting



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[contributions@quaker.org.uk](mailto:contributions@quaker.org.uk)

We can still accept cheques but online donations can be processed more easily, safely and reliably.





Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. Quaker unity is based on shared understanding and a shared practice of silent worship – a communal stillness.

Quakers seek to experience God directly – internally, in relationships with others, and in the world. Local meetings for worship 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 faith into action by working locally and globally to change the systems that cause injustice and violent conflict.

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