



Let your life speak on
Leave a legacy for
Quaker work



Britain Yearly Meeting is the national body for Quakers in Britain. It exists to sustain local Quaker communities and support Quaker witness in the world. From Quaker youthwork to action for peace and climate justice, all this work is discerned by Quakers. This means that work priorities can change over time to reflect the nature of Quaker concerns.

These brief examples give a picture of the range of current Quaker work. You can find out more at www.quaker.org.uk

Children and young people

Britain Yearly Meeting staff support children and young people to explore Quaker testimonies, understand themselves as Quakers, and connect with other young Friends across Britain. This helps to sustain Quaker communities for the future.



Peace

The Turning the Tide programme supports nonviolent social change at the grassroots in East Africa. Supported by Britain Yearly Meeting, local TTT staff offer training to other grassroots organisations in how to bring about change in a nonviolent way. This work is the Quaker peace testimony in action today.

Climate Justice

Around the globe, all countries are affected by climate change. However, those who have done the least to cause the problem are suffering the most. This is why Quakers in Britain are working for climate justice, by joining with other faith groups, campaigning and providing resources to put Quaker faith into action for climate justice.



Leave a gift in your will to sustain Quaker work

Legacy gifts are an important part of Britain Yearly Meeting's income and support vital work to sustain Quaker meetings and Quaker witness. Currently, legacy bequests pay for a fifth of Britain Yearly Meeting's work, which is all done on behalf of Quakers in Britain.

No matter how small, every gift is welcome and enables Britain Yearly Meeting to continue putting Quaker values into action.

Leave a legacy for Quaker work to let your life speak into the future.

What gift will you leave to future Quakers?

The earliest Quakers were organisers who established financial structures to support the growth of the movement. It was a vital part of their faith to ensure there were resources available to sustain and develop Quaker witness in the world.

Nearly 400 years later, we are grateful for the care they gave, which underpins our community life today. Now it's our turn to think about those who will carry forward our Quaker faith, work and witness in the future.

From making tea to taking a stand for peace, we each find the way to live out our Quaker faith in practice. And through our shared concerns, we take action to witness for truth, simplicity, peace and equality.

“Live adventurously. When choices arise, do you take the way that offers the fullest opportunity for the use of your gifts in the service of God and the community?” *Advices & Queries 27*

What do I need to consider when making a will?

It can be hard to look ahead to the end of life, but making your wishes clear can help family and friends after your death. This information leaflet may help inform conversations with your legal advisor, family and friends about how you want to approach making your will.

- We strongly recommend taking legal advice when making a will, as it is a legally binding document. However, you don't have to tell anyone about the choices you make.
- When choosing an executor – a person who ensures your wishes are carried out after your death – consider their situation and health as well as your own.

There may also be other legal matters you want to talk over when you're making your will, for example about setting up a power of attorney – a legal document to appoint a person who can make decisions on your behalf during your lifetime.

In addition to your will, you can give further guidance on how you want your estate to be managed by writing a letter of wishes (see opposite).

Live out your Quaker faith in the future.

A legacy gift helps ensure that Quakers in Britain continue to offer a welcoming faith community. Your financial support can help sustain discerned Quaker work and witness for truth, simplicity, peace and equality.

“Approach old age with courage and hope. As far as possible, make arrangements for your care in good time, so that an undue burden does not fall on others.”

Advices & Queries 29



What wording should I use when writing a will?

See our guidelines on suggested wording on our website www.quaker.org.uk/legacy or email us for more information.

How do I write a letter of wishes?

A letter of wishes is additional guidance and can offer practical and emotional support to your family and friends after your death. It allows you to give guidance on how you would like your gift to be used. Because a letter of wishes is not legally binding, it can remain private, unlike a will, which is a legally binding document and may become a matter of public record.

There is no set format and you don't need a solicitor to write a letter of wishes. The letter can be kept simple but needs to be signed and dated and you should take care not to write anything that contradicts your will.

You can find more information about writing a letter of wishes on our website www.quaker.org.uk/legacy or email us for more information.

FAQs: common questions about leaving a legacy

A will is a legally binding document, so it's important to get legal advice to make one. Information included here is provided in good faith, but Britain Yearly Meeting cannot accept responsibility for any steps taken as a result.

Q: Can I make a gift to support a Quaker meeting in my will?

A: Yes, you can leave a gift for Britain Yearly Meeting or to a local or area meeting. It is most helpful if any legacy is given to be used as needed for general purposes. To leave a bequest to a local or area meeting please see the information about Friends Trust Limited below.

Q: Can I leave a legacy to support a particular Quaker project?

A: Yes, you can specify in your will what work you want your legacy to support. Or it might be more practical to make it known how you would like a legacy to be used through a 'Letter of Wishes' (see opposite). This means that as areas of work develop and change in the future, your gift can be used in a way which mirrors your wishes as closely as possible.

Q: What kind of gift can I leave in my will?

A: There are three types of gift you can leave in your will:

- 1. A residuary gift** – a share of your total estate after all the other payments have been deducted. Because a residuary gift is a simple percentage of your estate, you can be reassured that the gift will hold its value and you don't need to worry if your circumstances change.
- 2. A pecuniary gift** – a gift of fixed amount. The value of the gift will be subject to inflation and may need reviewing from time to time, as it may end up being worth less than you originally intended.
- 3. A specific gift** – a gift of personal possessions, property or shares.

Q: Do I have to use a solicitor to make my will?

A: No, but we strongly advise that you do. A solicitor will help you make sure that your will meets all the requirements of the law.

Q: What if I want to add to, or amend, my will?

A: If it's a simple amendment, you can do this by writing a codicil. This is a formal document, signed and witnessed like a will, that details the changes from the original will.

Q: What is Friends Trusts Limited?

A: It is trust company and registered charity that administers funds on behalf of Quaker bodies. It is based at Friends House, but has its own board of directors. If you want to leave gifts for local and area Quaker meetings, name Friends Trust Limited as the beneficiary in your will and the directors will pass your gift to the named meetings or their successors.

Q: Where can I find out more information?

A: It's recommended to speak to a legal advisor when you make your will. We also make some additional information available on the Quakers in Britain website, including suggested wording for leaving a bequest and a glossary of relevant legal terms: www.quaker.org.uk/legacy.



What gift will you leave to future Quakers?

“...advice on outward affairs has traditionally reminded Friends of the importance of keeping their financial affairs in good order, and of making and revising their wills in time of health.”

Quaker faith & practice 4.22

Why should I think about making a will?

Making a will is an important responsibility. Setting out what you want to happen to your assets after your death gives you the opportunity to show your care, your values and your faith.

When should I make or amend my will?

You should regularly review your will to be sure it reflects your situation, especially with any life-changing events such as marriage or civil partnership, birth of a child, or a house move.

How can I help keep things simple for family and friends after my death?

Making a will, and keeping it up-to-date, shows care for your family and friends after your death. At a time of sadness, clear information about your wishes will help to make decisions and arrangements more straight-forward.

What else might I want to consider when making my will?

After providing for family and friends, you may wish to leave a legacy gift in support of concerns that are important to you. This can be an opportunity to express your values and your faith in action.

Want to find out more?

Scan the QR code to visit www.quaker.org.uk/legacy

Or you can email contributions@quaker.org.uk
or phone 020 7663 1117



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