

The [Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts](#) for 2019 is published as a separate document. This update is included in Appendix B of the Agenda and Notes.

## **Update for Yearly Meeting 2020 from Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees**

2020 is proving an extraordinary year for Britain Yearly Meeting - as it is for very many organisations - and BYM Trustees have worked closely with the Management Meeting and staff of BYM to ensure that we continue to provide Friends with support in their worship and witness while we keep staff safe and conserve our funds. In March, BYM's whole way of working changed overnight. Friends House and Swarthmoor Hall closed, most staff working for the Quiet Company (the company looking after the buildings and in normal times generating income for BYM) were furloughed alongside nearly half of those working on the delivery of BYM's charitable activities, and other staff began to work entirely from home.

Despite this, staff worked flexibly to ensure that advice was available to meetings about worship in times of Covid and safe premises management as well as longer term matters such as safeguarding. And much of the work described in the 2019 annual report continued despite the pandemic.

Friends House reopened at the beginning of September with social distancing and all necessary health and safety arrangements in place. The bookshop/café is trading and Friends House meeting is again worshipping there. Swarthmoor Hall is open for self-catering only. It offers hope to us all that Friends House is open, albeit that there are very few users at the moment.

Inevitably, the Quiet Company has generated very little income this year and, partly because of this, BYM expects to have a deficit of £2.5m in 2020. Fortunately we have reserves, but the pandemic makes it more important than ever that we develop new sustainable ways of delivering and funding BYM's work so that our regular expenditure matches our routine income in 2023 and following years.

In 2019 Trustees and staff agreed to support Quaker Communities differently and this year we have seen how valuable Local Development Workers are in helping colleagues in BYM better understand the needs of Friends locally. We need Friends and Meetings to contribute this year and in future years to the cost of BYM's work so that we can continue both to support meetings in their worship and witness and to deliver or fund work that Friends want done - but cannot do locally.

I am very grateful to all the staff of BYM – whether they have been furloughed or working – for their understanding, commitment and flexibility during these difficult times.

Caroline Nursey, London West AM