



June 2017

Dear Friends

GETTING READY FOR QUAKER WEEK 2017

In turbulent times: be a Quaker

This is our theme for Quaker Week 30 September to 8 October 2017. We hope this flier will start you thinking about what your meeting might do this year. We encourage meetings to see outreach as part of their life throughout the year and we know that many meetings engage in some outreach activity to co-coincide with a local festival or event such as Open House. However, each year, during Quaker Week, we invite meetings to think about holding an outreach event alongside our national advertising campaign and a range of other outreach initiatives, to raise the profile of Quakers both locally and nationally. The main aim of Quaker Week is to ensure Quakers are well known and widely understood – to help seekers to find us and hopefully encourage newcomers to experience Quaker worship. However, many meetings who take part in outreach also find that the experience strengthens and enriches their own Quaker community as a loving, inclusive and all-age fellowship through shared activity. Quaker Week is also a great opportunity to share with others the values that shape our lives through the stories of our witness and our passionate commitment to building a more just and peaceful world.

How can we help?

Free information packs – we will send every meeting that makes a request *six free copies* of our helpful information pack for newcomers, which includes leaflets, *Advices & Queries* and a copy of *Being a Quaker* by Geoffrey Durham. Send your requests to quakercentre@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1030 or 020 7663 1125.

Providing speakers - for an event you wish to host. If you are holding an event during Quaker Week, we can offer speakers on a wide range of topics, ranging from Quaker worship and spirituality, to Quaker history, to peace education, economic justice and advocacy. Contact Esther on speakers@quaker.org.uk and she will help find someone.

Ideas Pack – an ideas pack will come directly to local meeting Clerks sometime in the summer, to help generate ideas of what you might do – small or large scale.

New poster – capturing the theme of Quaker Week and based on key moments in the Quaker story. These will be posted to every local meeting clerk, sometime in July or August.

Past posters – a wide selection of posters from previous campaigns and Quaker Weeks is still available. These can be requested free of charge from quakercentre@quaker.org.uk or collected from the book stall at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Warwick.

Hoodies – in Quaker grey or blue (adult sizes S to XXL) will be available for sale at Yearly Meeting Gathering or online from the Quaker Bookshop (from June). Our twitter handle '*know more Quakers*' wording is on the left side. Order using this link: <http://bookshop.quaker.org.uk/>

Facebook pages – we are encouraging meetings to publicise events on their own Facebook pages. If you need assistance in setting up your page or creating an event contact jonm@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1059. We are also providing some funding to support meetings to advertise their events on Facebook. If you don't know what this means then phone Jon to find out more. Use #quakerweek on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram.

Postcard pack – in a forthcoming Clerks' Mailing each local meeting will receive ten Quaker postcards. We encourage you to send these out around the time of Quaker Week to share a message of joy or peaceful greetings with non-Quakers you know.

Emails to past enquirers - If you are planning an event, we are able to send on your *electronic* fliers to people in your local area who have previously requested an information pack. Just send us your e-flier and the post code area you want us to contact. We will then do a mailing on your behalf (we are not able to supply data directly to you).

Free resources - available to order from quakercentre@quaker.org.uk or available to download online at <http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-organisation/support-for-meetings/outreach> including:

Sharing Our Meetings' Stories (blue) – a report capturing the stories and experiences of Quaker meetings and offering insights into how we might nourish and strengthen our life together as worshipping communities. 900 copies in stock.

Outreach Handbook: reaching in, reaching out (dark pink) - a handbook of ideas, stories and guidance. (Available online)

A day with Friends (light brown) – a simple, helpful resource on how to run events for enquirers and new attenders. 100 copies in stock.

New expressions of Quaker Community (grey) - for meetings interested in exploring new ways of being Quaker communities. (Available online)

Stock up on leaflets – see what's currently available here:

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources/free-resources/outreach-materials> We will be having some new leaflets published later this year (in English and in Welsh) and sample packs will be sent to every local meeting Clerk. Make sure your clerking details are up to date or send recent appointments to updates@quaker.org.uk

Let us know – Please do email outreach@quaker.org.uk and tell us what you are planning to do. In order to capture all of the wonderful outreach activities across Britain in 2017 we really want to hear from you. Alternatively if we don't hear, we will be phoning meetings during September to hear what your outreach plans are for 2017. Even if it is just sending the postcards, every little counts. However, we hope that some meetings will have a range of amazing events and activities that engage with the local community, reach out in friendship and encourage seekers to find out more.

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In much friendship Alistair Fuller

Head of Ministry and Outreach, Quaker Life