

Quaker Life



Outreach

The work of the Outreach committee and staff team has two main elements: helping others to find out about Quakerism and helping Friends to speak more confidently about our faith. Outreach is not about converting other people but rather about making Quakerism better known, using our best resource – Friends themselves.

What we can do for you

Our aim is to help Friends discover their confident Quaker voice. We provide resources and support for local Meetings in their outreach work. The Outreach resources catalogue lists all the available leaflets, posters, books, travelling exhibitions and other materials which are designed to help you make your Meeting House better known and to help you explain what being a Quaker is all about. However, experience has shown us that Enquirers would far rather learn about Quakerism face to face than from books and leaflets, so we also offer training days for Meetings where we explore how to make your Meeting more welcoming and how to answer the kind of questions which Enquirers ask.

We are also working closely with Quaker Quest and Meeting of Friends in Wales to provide training in outreach and spiritual hospitality. Quaker Quest has shown that in working together to discover what we have to say, the spiritual life of Meetings is growing and that Friends and Meetings can be transformed. Every three years we run a national Big Outreach Conference to bring together Friends from across Britain Yearly Meeting to share ideas and good practice, to develop the outreach network and to work together in outreach training workshops. We run a similar, but smaller conference for university chaplains, and work with Quaker Communications to offer media and outreach training.

Please get in touch if you would like us to run an event for your Meeting or if you can offer your services to speak about Quakerism at local and national events.

Photo: Charles Milligan/Quaker Life



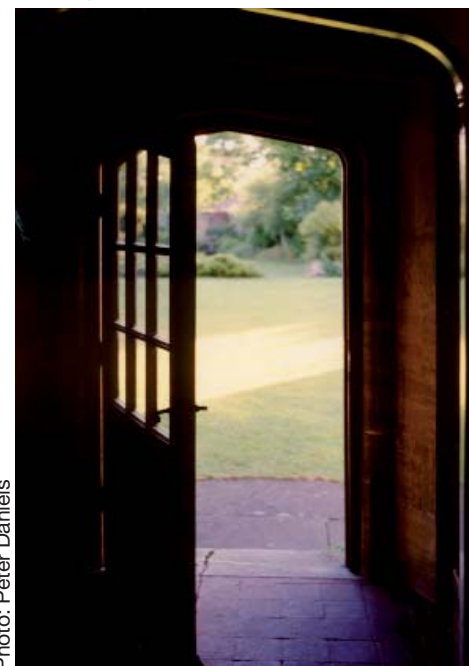
Advertising

We are always trying to make our advertising more effective, and we know it's working, as requests for enquirers' packs have almost quadrupled over the last four years.

In the autumn of 2007 we are planning a national outreach initiative, when we hope Meetings will join in a week-long local and national advertising event, supported by outreach events in Meeting Houses across the country.

"I really appreciated the openness and honesty of the facilitators"
(Enquirers Gathering, Charney manor March 2006)

Photo: Peter Daniels



What we do for Enquirers

We respond to Enquirers by sending them an Enquirers pack, containing "A Light that is Shining" and information about local Meetings. There are also details of the "Meet a Quaker" scheme, which offers enquirers the opportunity to meet a local Friend who can tell them more about Quakerism or offer to take them to their first Quaker Meeting.

We also let them know about local and national enquirers' events and invite them to enquirers' weekends and weekends for those considering membership which are held at Charney Manor and Swarthmoor Hall every year and from time to time in other parts of the country.

These offer enquirers and attenders opportunities to find to more about Quakerism, to reflect on their own spiritual journeys and to consider whether Quakerism might be the right path for them for them.

The weekends are led by experienced facilitators from the Outreach Team and Friends from across BYM who bring their own knowledge and enthusiasm and a willingness to share their experiences.

We also respond to individual requests for advice and information, and provide information for schools and school visitors and are working on a new guide for our university chaplains. We will also be working more closely with the Quaker Tapestry to develop its outreach potential, and expanding the outreach section of the BYM website to meet the needs of both Enquirers and Friends involved in outreach.



Photo: Charles Milligan/Quaker Life

Friendly conversation can be one of the most effective means of outreach.

Get involved

- invite the Outreach team to run a training day for your PM, MM or GM
- invite your attenders to an Enquirers weekend and perhaps offer them some financial support
- join the outreach network
- run a local outreach event
- borrow an exhibition from the outreach team
- develop your own confident Quaker voice
- run Quaker Quest in your PM or MM – the Quaker Quest team will offer you support and advice
- make sure your Meeting House is well-signed and welcoming

" I didn't expect to enjoy it so much!" (Enquirers Gathering, Charney manor March 2006)

Contact

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Quaker Life works with Friends in their meetings and with other local and national committees to help deepen experience of God's grace and its consequent expression in all our lives and in our meetings. It seeks to nurture the worshipping community of Britain Yearly Meeting, developing it into an inclusive community.

Quaker faith & practice 8.08