



NEW CONTRIBUTIONS MATERIALS

Dear Friends

It's been a pleasure to meet and communicate with so many of you in my second year as YM treasurer. 2023 was a better year for us than 2022. We spent more on the central work discerned by Friends.

It was also a year where the diligent work of our new finance team put the accounting issues of the previous year firmly behind us and the auditors were happy with what they found. Staff and trustees have been working hard this year to make the best use of our strong reserves position; deciding how we can make prudent but effective use of those reserves to deliver Quaker work. Swarthmoor Hall has benefited from continued investment and this year re-opened in time for the George Fox 400 celebrations.

Thank You

I want to thank you for your service on behalf of the yearly meeting. Contributions from Friends and meetings are crucial to delivering the work that Friends want us to do. The commitment of meetings to fund Quaker work has been inspiring. In 2024, 76% of those responding to the treasurers' survey reported that their meetings plan to give the same amount or more than they did in 2023.

Celebrating Quaker Work

We have much to celebrate in this year. Many of your meetings held events for George Fox 400. While celebrating our history, we also celebrate the future - a future where all Friends work together to ensure our testimonies of truth, peace, simplicity, and equality are present in the world.

The best way to help sustain Quaker work is by encouraging Friends and attenders to give regularly throughout the year. If everyone were to contribute £20 per month (or £240 per year), it would ensure that BYM receives the contribution from Friends to deliver the work Quakers believe is needed.

We know that not everyone will be able to afford this. Some of us already giving at this level should be encouraged to consider whether we can raise our own contribution to share the cost of Quaker work in an equitable way. Although we were able to increase spending on Quaker work last year, we will not be able to keep doing this without an increase in membership or funding numbers.

Contribution Materials

Our new contribution material focuses on 'Celebrating Quaker Work' with information about how funds are spent and examples of Quaker work. You will find a full range of contribution material to support you at <http://www.quaker.org.uk/contributions> including a video and slides.

Please share these materials with Friends in your meetings. They show Friends the Quaker work done thanks to their generosity. If you have any questions or need support, please get in touch with our fundraising team at contributions@quaker.org.uk. They will be happy to help.

Thank you again for all you do to encourage Friends to give and support Quaker work.

In Friendship,

Paul Whitehouse

Yearly Meeting Treasurer