



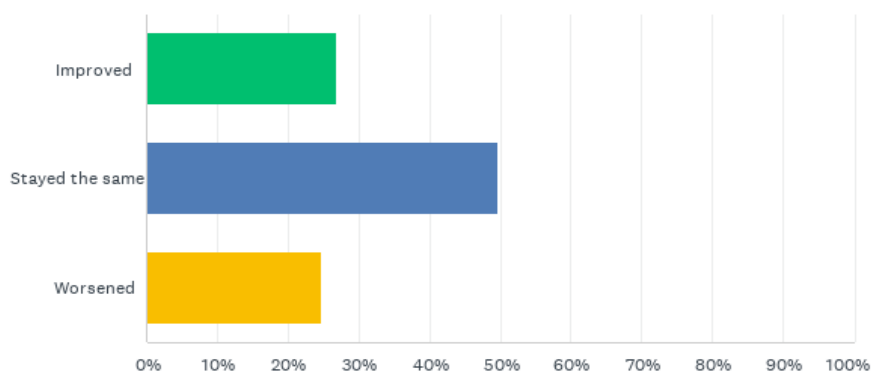
# QiB 2025 Treasurers Survey

## Background

The Annual Treasurers' Survey was circulated to all 476 local meeting treasurers to gather insights into the current financial situation across meetings. The survey aimed to identify trends, challenges, and areas of stability or growth to better understand how meetings manage their resources and where support may be needed.

In total, 149 treasurers responded, representing a 31% response rate. While not fully comprehensive, these responses provide a useful snapshot of the financial experiences of local meetings and highlight positive signs of stability and improvement, as well as areas of concern where finances have worsened.

## Q1 Compared with this time last year, have your meeting finances?



### 50% of meetings reported their finances stayed the same, compared to last year's 54%

Half of the treasurers reported that their meeting's finances have stayed the same as last year. This suggests that while pressures exist, many meetings are maintaining financial stability year-on-year.

### 27% of meetings reported their finances improved, compared to 18% in 2024

This is encouraging, as it indicates that a significant portion of meetings income may be growing, or expenditure has become more sustainable.

Some comments from meetings that reported their finances stayed the same or improved:

- *We have been quite stable up to approximately months ago, but since then have had a lot of outgoings on building maintenance.*
- *With good reserves, we do not have any particular concerns. The reduction in our funds is small at present.*

### 25% of meetings reported their finances worsened, compared to 28% in 2024.

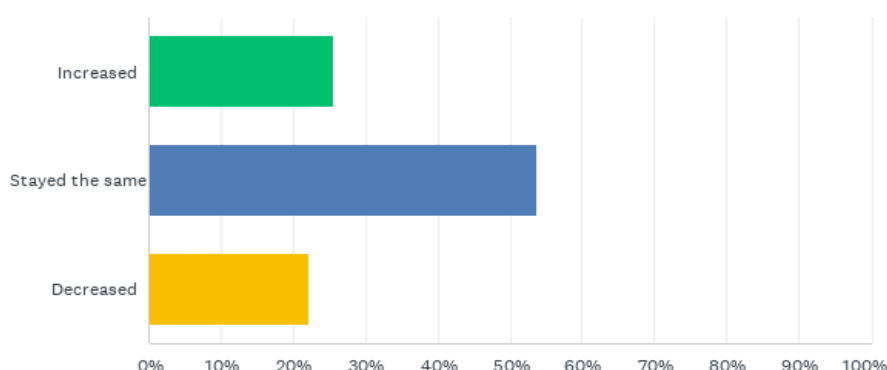
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This is a sizeable minority and highlights that some local meetings are experiencing increasing strain, which may merit further support or closer attention. Some comments from meetings that reported their finances have worsened:

- *Contributions to AM costs are double our LM running costs.*
- *Reduced member contributions and lettings*
- *Rising electricity costs and building maintenance are our biggest challenges.*
- *We have spent £25k on roofing repairs this year. Area Meeting has lent us £3k. Previous officers did not face up to the work necessary, leading to emergency repairs.*

**Q2 Have total contributions from members in your meetings so far:**



**26% of respondents reported an increase in total contributions.**

Just over one-quarter of treasurers noted an increase in contributions. This is a positive sign, as it indicates that some meetings are experiencing either growth in membership giving or stronger levels of financial commitment. Some comments explaining why:

- *We are a small Meeting and comfortably bring in excess contributions each year*
- *We've lost several contributing members during (and since) the pandemic. Numbers have risen slightly, and all Members/Attendees give what they can.*

**53% of respondents indicated that contributions have remained the same.**

The majority of meetings (over half) reported no change in contribution levels. This suggests a degree of stability in giving, despite wider economic pressures. Some comments explaining why:

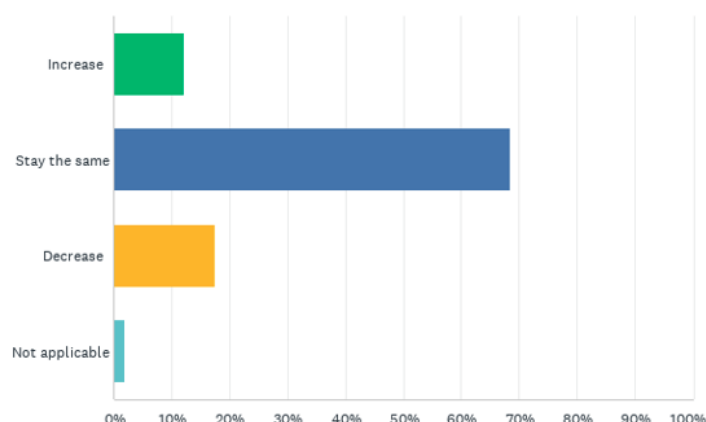
- *Increasing in room rent, but contributions remain unchanged*
- *There are a small number of members but most give regular donations.*

**21% of respondents experienced a decrease in contributions.**

A notable minority (around one in five meetings) reported a decrease in contributions. This highlights a potential area of concern and may point to financial strain among members, declining membership numbers, or changing giving patterns. Some comments explaining why:

- *We have an ageing population who are less able to contribute. We do also have some youngsters, but they are not really in a financial position to do much in the way of donations.*
- *Rising utility costs and reduced members contributions*
- *We generate a large surplus from lettings there is no need to ask members to contribute.*

Q3 Do you anticipate the level of contributions from your meeting to BYM in 2025 to:



**12% of respondents expect their contributions to increase.**

This is notably lower than the proportion of meetings that reported increase in contributions in 2024 (25.5%). This suggests that while some meetings saw growth this year, treasurers are not confident that this trend will continue into 2025. Some comments explaining why:

- *Area Meeting has seemed very supportive of our increasing the annual contribution to the work of BYM, and some Friends to make an individual donation.*
- *Our main concern is to get more Friends to contribute, we are getting there. We may then be able to concentrate more on getting them to reassess the amount they give.*
- *Area Meeting has seemed very supportive of our increasing the annual contribution to the work of BYM, and some Friends to make an individual donation.*

**69% of respondents expect their contributions to stay the same.**

This indicates a cautious outlook, with most treasurers not expecting significant financial shifts in the coming year. Some comments explaining why:

- *Increasing room rent, contributions unchanged*
- *Make inflation relevant to get Friends to consider increasing contributions. But the meeting likes to support wider Quaker run charities. Miss summer gathering to get more Friends connected to BYM.*

**17% of respondents anticipate a decrease in their contributions.**

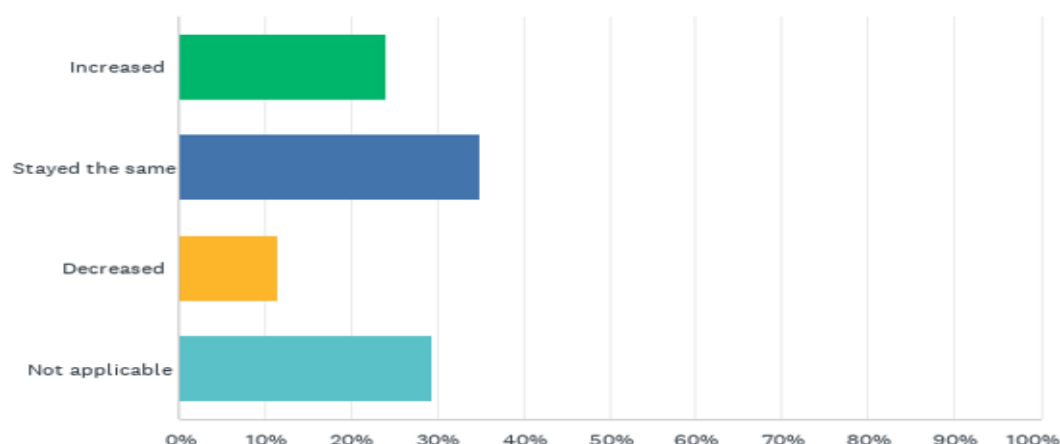
This is slightly higher than those expecting growth, reflecting possible concerns around members' capacity to give, local meeting finances, or broader economic uncertainty.

Some comments explaining why:

- *Contributions to AM costs are double our LM running costs. This makes the ask from members more difficult and probably impacts on members' ability to contribute to Yearly Meeting.*
- *Schedules dropped 25%, Rental increased but so did property maintenance*
- *We may have a drop in contributions, due to the death of a couple of members last year*

**2% of respondents selected not applicable.**

## Q4 Has income from lettings:



### **24% reported an increase in their income from lettings, the same as last year.**

This indicates a recovery or strengthening of lettings income in many meetings, possibly linked to the post-pandemic reopening of meeting houses or increased demand for community spaces. Some comments explaining why:

- *We generate a large surplus from lettings there is no need to ask members to contribute*
- *Whether leasing the meeting house to another organisation will lead to an increase in net income*

### **35% stated that income from lettings remained the same, and last year it was 26%**

Meetings where lettings apply, most reported stability or improvement. An uptick in this group compared to last year's results. Some comments explaining why:

- *Sometimes the groups, charities that hire our building take a month or more to pay us*
- *Whether leasing the meeting house to another organisation will lead to an increase in net income.*

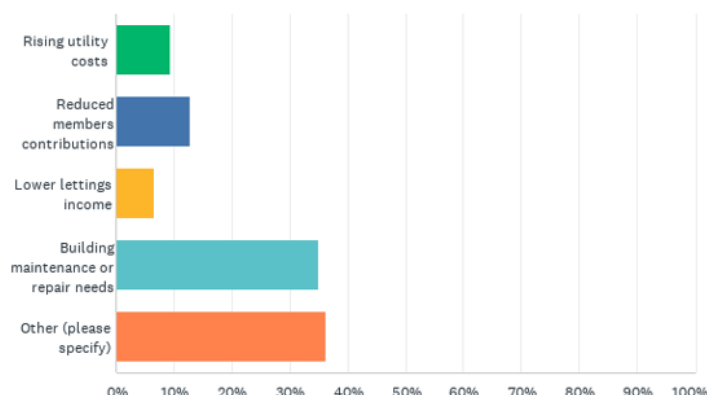
### **11% reported that income from lettings decreased, compared to 20% in 2024**

- *Room hire costs are increasing*
- *Lower lettings income in the second quarter of this year*
- *We lost a great many lettings during/after the pandemic, it has taken time to build up again.*

### **30% responded this question was not applicable.**

- *We sold our Meeting House in 2024 and we now hire a room. We no longer have any income from hiring or lettings.*

Q5 What are the biggest financial challenges your meeting is currently facing? (Tick all that apply)



### 9% of treasurers identified rising utility costs

Some comments related to why:

- *bills and maintenance costs have gone up*
- *Costs of renting*

### 13% of treasurers cited reduced member contributions

This group indicates falling member contributions as a challenge, though this aligns with the findings from earlier survey questions (Q2 and Q3), where some meetings reported decrease or anticipated future declines. Some comments related to why:

- *Reduced number of members, and some are in poor health due to age and health.*
- *Reducing/ageing membership will inevitably lead to falling off in contributions even though, currently, they are responding very well to appeals.*
- *Contributions to AM costs are double our LM running costs. This makes the ask from members more difficult and probably impacts on members' ability to contribute to Yearly Meeting.*

### 7% of treasurers reported lower lettings income

Some quotes explaining

- *Sometimes the groups, charities, that hire our building take a month or more to pay us*
- *Reduced member contributions and lettings*
- *We sold Portsmouth MH in 2024 and we now hire a room. We no longer have any income from hiring or lettings.*

### 35% of treasurers highlighted building maintenance or repair needs.

This group reported building maintenance or repair needs as their most pressing financial challenge. This reflects the reality that many Quaker meeting houses are historic or older buildings requiring ongoing upkeep, which places a significant financial burden on local meetings.

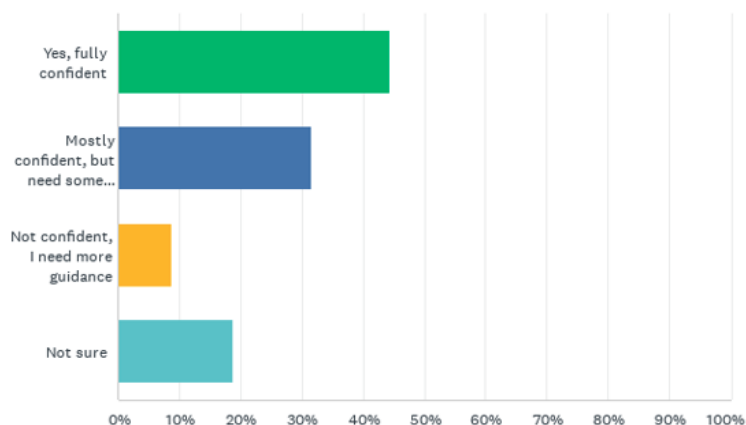
- *Our meeting had break- ins and damages*
- *Finding the funds for a major refurbishment of Wandsworth meeting house*
- *We are selling the meeting house and there is a lot of uncertainty.*

### **36% of treasurers selected 'Other'**

Treasurers in this category raised a range of additional issues not captured by the listed options. This suggests that financial challenges are diverse and often specific to local circumstances, potentially including insurance costs, accessibility upgrades, or managing reserves. The main challenges mentioned were:

- **Governance and staffing:** Difficulty finding a treasurer, lack of office holders.
  - *The challenge is finding sufficient trustees, treasurers and premises Friends to do the work.*
  - *To lay down the job. I have done it for most of the last 20 years*
- **Banking issues:** Problems with CAF Bank
  - *The banks are being a real pain. All charities I am involved with say the same. We need a bank that works for charities and understands them. CAF bank is currently a disaster zone with one treasurer resigning because CAF bank was getting all too difficult.*
- **Membership issues:** Ageing membership, small numbers, loss of contributors post-pandemic.
  - *We are a fairly small local meeting and our main problem is that the membership is ageing*
  - *Shrinking membership reduces no. of Friends with time*
- **Property decisions:** Selling meeting houses, uncertainty around leasing.
  - *We are selling the meeting house and there is a lot of uncertainty.*
- **Financial management:** Drawing on reserves, investing legacies, managing outsourcing costs.
  - *WSAQM have received a large legacy which the Charity Commission have allowed us to spend on Capital Projects. We have bought more land to add to what we already have making over seven acres in all.*
- **Security and infrastructure:** Break-ins, damage, refurbishment needs.
  - *Our meeting had break- ins and damages*
  - *The Meeting operates well within the incoming funds*

## Q6 Do you feel confident in encouraging contributions from Friends to BYM ?



### 44% of respondents feel fully confident in encouraging contributions

This is a positive trend, showing that many already feel equipped to support financial giving within their meetings. Some comments explaining:

- *Although we encourage people to make direct contributions, it isn't clear who does/doesn't*
- *We inform people about BYM finances by including the link to the BYM website in the annual appeal*
- *In making our annual appeal for funds we always include the information received from BYM and ask Friends to consider donating as individuals directly to BYM.*

### 32% said they are mostly confident, but would need some support.

- *It might be more helpful if, when asking for financial support for BYM, we could mention a specific project that might benefit from our support.*

### 8% respondents said they are not confident and need more guidance.

- *It is difficult to contribute to BYM when a meeting is just about making ends meet.*
- *Help with promoting giving in my meeting & Information about BYM finances*

### 19% respondents were not sure about their confidence level

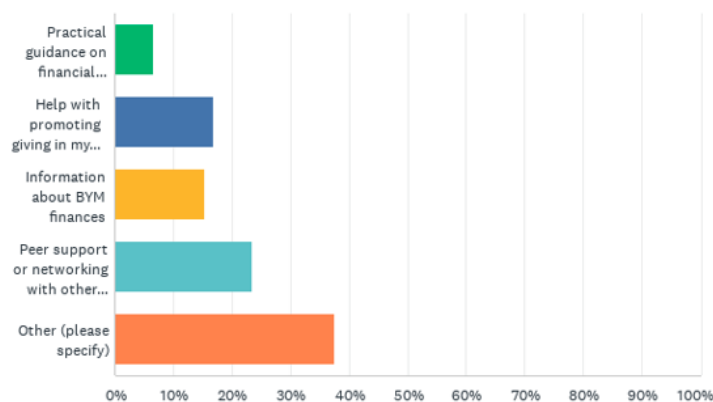
This may reflect a lack of clarity about their role in encouraging giving, or uncertainty about how Friends might respond. Some comments explaining why:

- *It's difficult to contribute to BYM when a meeting is just about making ends meet.*

## Key Insights

- Majority Confidence: Over 75% of respondents feel either fully or mostly confident in encouraging contributions.
- Support Needed: Nearly 40% (combining “mostly confident” and “not confident”) would benefit from additional guidance or resources.
- Uncertainty: Almost 1 in 5 respondents are unsure, indicating a potential gap in communication or clarity around their role in fundraising.

Q7 What kind of support would help you in your role as treasurer? (Tick all that apply)



### **23% said they want “Peer support or networking with other treasurers”**

- Indicates a strong interest in community-building, sharing experiences, and learning from others.
- Suggests potential for regional treasurer networks, online forums, or regular meetups.

### **15% said that they need “Information about BYM finances”**

### **17% said they need “Help with promoting giving in my meeting”**

- Help with promoting giving and information about BYM finances show that some treasurers want better tools or messaging to encourage contributions.
- Could be addressed through ready-made materials, FAQs, or training sessions.

### **7% asked for “Practical guidance on financial reporting”**

- Suggests that most treasurers feel competent in basic financial tasks, or already have sufficient resources.
- This area may not need prioritised support unless specific gaps are identified in the "Other" responses.

### **38% of respondents answered “Other”**

- This high percentage suggests that many treasurers have unique or unmet needs not captured by the predefined options.
- It would be valuable to analyse the free-text responses under "Other" to identify recurring themes (e.g., software support, training formats, communication issues).

#### Some comments explaining why:

- *To lay down the job. I have done it for most of the last 20 years*
- *We inform people about BYM finances by including the link to the BYM website in the annual appeal*
- *AM is reviewing the financial management procedures, so we'll wait to see what is needed.*
- *We are in a weak position generally.*
- *Area Meeting has centralised our finances so my role is now much reduced*
- *I am well supported locally*



- *Having one specific person at FH to contact when we need help or advice. Quaker Stewardship Committee used to provide that advice.*

### **Comments on meeting finances or contributions**

- *Our AM finances are becoming increasingly centralized, we'd welcome support & ideas.*
- *Increasing admin pressure in general on a small LM is putting people off coming!*
- *We have been quite stable up to approximately months ago, but since then have had a lot of outgoings on building maintenance.*
- *We have spent £25k on roofing repairs this year. Area Meeting has lent us £3k. Previous officers did not face up to the work necessary, leading to emergency repairs.*
- *Last year I visited all our LMs bar one with a presentation and appeal. It is difficult to know what to do next as a large proportion of our community remains Local Meeting focused with insufficient knowledge, thus little desire to widen outlook.*
- *Make inflation relevant to get Friends to consider increasing contributions. But the meeting likes to support wider Quaker run charities.*
- *After some issues in the meeting house, some members are paying 100% of their contribution directly to yearly meeting, effectively bypassing the local and area meeting because of historic concerns about spending unusually large amounts on 'improvements' to the meeting house.*
- *The challenge is finding sufficient trustees, treasurers and premises Friends to do the work. This is the reason, of course, why so many AMs are considering forming regional groupings, to achieve economies of scale.*
- *Shrinking membership reduces no. of Friends with time/skills/energy, affects all aspects of our meetings.*

### **Comments about the process of contributing to BYM**

- *Members know their responsibility to give to BYM as I send out your Giving Leaflet with a letter explaining what is needed.*
- *People are divorced from BYM. Local Meetings think BYM donations are for AM to make only. People have lack of confidence in BYM using their money.*
- *We inform people about BYM finances by including the link to the BYM website in the annual appeal*
- *It might be more helpful if, when asking for financial support for BYM, we could mention a specific project that might benefit from our support.*
- *Rising electricity costs and building maintenance are our biggest challenges. We may have a drop in contributions, due to the death of a couple of members last year.*
- *Although we encourage people to make direct contributions, it isn't clear who does/doesn't.*
- *It is difficult to contribute to BYM when a meeting is just about making ends meet.*
- *Our AM aims to have more Friends directly contributing to BYM rather than the AM itself. This is proving challenging.*
- *Area Meeting has seemed very supportive of our increasing the annual contribution to the work of BYM, and some Friends to make an individual donation.*