

EAST CHESHIRE AREA MEETING FOR WORSHIP FOR BUSINESS

**Saturday 9th September 2017 1.45pm
Held at The Ridge Methodist Church, Marple**

MINUTES

Minute 17.09.01: Friends present

All our Meetings are represented, except Crewe and Nantwich.
36 Friends are present.

The Trustee present is Hilary Brooks.

The Accompanying Elder is Alan Russell.

Minute 17.09.02: Reading

We have heard parts of the Yearly Meeting Epistle read in our opening worship.

Minute 17.09.03: Caring for Friends

We have heard the names of Friends who are in our thoughts. The Assistant Clerk with the help of Liz Morris will write to them on our behalf.

Minute 17.09.04: Civil partnership of Frances McCann and Julia Horne

We are pleased to note that Frances McCann and Julia Horne committed into a civil partnership at Manchester Registry Office on 20th July, and Stockport Meeting held a celebratory Meeting for Worship with them on 26th August.

Minute 17.09.05: Transfer of membership: Madeleine Reeves

We have received a Certificate for Transfer of Membership from Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting in respect of Madeleine

Reeves, who is attending Stockport Meeting. We accept this transfer and ask Peter Eccles to welcome Madeleine to East Cheshire Area Meeting.

Minute 17.09.06: Death of Monica Goddard:

We record with sadness the death of Monica Goddard, a long time Attender at Marple Meeting, on 29th August. Her funeral was held at Stockport Crematorium on 7th September. A fuller minute will follow.

Minute 17.09.07: Burial of ashes: Doris Mitchell Grimsditch

We have received from Frandley Meeting an Order for Burial – notice of interment of the ashes of Doris Mitchell Grimsditch who died 26th April 2017. At her wishes, the marker stone gives her name as Doris Mitchell. Our Clerk has signed this notice and it will be returned to Michael Hennessey.

Minute 17.09.08: Nominations

Nominations Committee has brought us the names of Friends to serve as follows:

Post	Nomination	To serve
Area Meeting Clerk	Frances Hill	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018
Asst Area Meeting Clerk	Sally Mendham	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018
Area Meeting Treasurer	Peter Eccles	A further and final triennium 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Trustees: Cheadle Hulme Frandley Wilmslow	Peter Eccles Gill Alcock Gavin Mendham	All three from 01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Registering Officer	Hazel Todhunter	
Asst Registering Officer	Ann Evens	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Marriage Extract Verifier	Jacqui Moore	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020

To issue burial notes at Frandley & Higher Whitley	Michael Hennessey Gill Alcock	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Christian & Interfaith Correspondent	Susan Clark	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Representative to SACRE	Susan Clark	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Intervisitation Clerk	Catherine de Haas	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Quaker Chaplain at Styal Prison	Denise Renshaw	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Representative at Chaigeley School	Michael Hennessey	01/09/2017 - 31/08/2020 (academic term dates)
Membership Clerk & LOMA co-ordinator	Denise Renshaw	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Safeguarding Officer	Sue Pounder	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Custodian of Records	Till Geiger	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
IT Co-ordinator	Geoff Tomlinson	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Northern Friends' Peace Board Representative Deputy	t.b.c. Phoebe Spence	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2020
Newsletter Editor	Darren Booth	01/01/2018 - 31/12/2018
Representative to Young Friends General Meeting	T B	- not determined..
	Elders	Overseers
Frandley	Michael Hennessey 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2020	Leneh Buckle 1/01/18 to 31/12/2020 Marie Turner 01/01/2018 to 31/12/2019
Cheadle Hulme	Geoffrey Clifton 01/09/2017 to 31/12 /2018 (Liz Perry has asked to be released, we agree to this)	
Marple		Eleni Burgess 01/01/18 to 31/12/2020
Stockport	Margaret Moss 1/01/18 to 31/12/2020	Joan Armstrong 1/01/18 to 31/12/2020

Wilmslow	Frances Hill 1/01/18 to 31/12/2020	John Shields subject to confirmation by group of Es + Os 1/01/18 to 31/12/2020
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To attend Conferences/Courses as follows:

Facilitation and Leadership	Woodbrooke, 20-22 October	TB JB
Deepening Discernment	Woodbrooke 6-8 November	Frances McCann
YP Participation Day	Friends House 2 nd December	TB AB AM JW
Changing Face of Faith in Britain (QCCIR)	Woodbrooke 16-18 March 2018	Susan Clark Ann L Lewis
Safeguarding	Woodbrooke January 2018	Sue Pounder Gill Alcock

We accept these nominations and the Friends are duly appointed.
We thank all Friends for their service.

We thank Nominations Committee for their work on this.

We ask Disley and Crewe and Nantwich Meetings to bring names for Elders and Overseers to Nominations Committee and agree that our clerks and treasurer may agree appointments as a Between Meetings Minute.

Minute 17.09.09: Nominations to Nominations Committee

Cheadle Hulme Meeting has brought the name of Susan Clark and Wilmslow Meeting the name of Denise Renshaw to serve on ECAM Nominations Committee from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020. We are pleased to accept these names and appoint Susan

and Denise accordingly. We ask Crewe and Nantwich and Disley Meetings to bring a name to our next meeting.

Minute 17.09.10: 5 minute find out - Hilary Brooks

We thank Hilary for sharing stories of her early years.

Minute 17.09.11: Summer School report

The Friends' Summer School was held in Oswestry School from 23-30th August 2017. 12 young people associated with Meetings in East Cheshire Area attended. The theme was Being Ourselves. The Summer School Epistle is attached. Our Young Friends have reflected on their personal gains from the week.

The venue was readily accessible and worked well.

We thank T, J, J and R for their report.

Minute 17.09.12: Yearly Meeting Gathering, and JYM

We have heard reflections from many Friends who attended YMG from 30th July to 6th August at the University of Warwick. The theme of YMG was Faith in Action - Making a Difference in the World.

Reflections have included:

- Enjoyment of a wide variety of events - not feeling guilty for not attending main sessions;
- Discussion of turning anger about what is going on in the world into energy to work forwards;
- QUNO session - hearing about quiet work on climate change, refugees, etc;
- Turning the Tide - toolkit for effective action;
- JYM
 - Working together with others to make a difference
 - Attending Tim Gee's George Gorman lecture (this is on BYM website)
 - A talk from Catherine West on youth parliament

- Sam Walton - taking action
- Games and discussion in base groups
- Hunt the Quaker - where JYM Over 20s team were "hidden" in costumes
- Games and drama (Sleeping Beauty via Quaker Business Method to resolve conflict)
- Ceilidh
- Meeting for Worship before speaker sessions, and
- Epilogue to end each evening
- 3-5 year old "Fox Cubs" - who remembered people who are homeless and hungry and shared this concern with everyone there.

This is but a small sample of the activities enjoyed by Friends. We express our thanks for the opportunities presented.

Minute 17.09.13: Inclusion

We have received the attached letter from Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, asking us to consider how we might create a more inclusive community in our local meetings, in terms of ethnicity, age groups, and other stages in life. We have also received two Quaker Life queries from Sue Pounder

We encourage local meetings, Teenage General Meeting and our Children and Young Peoples Committee to reflect on these questions. Reflections could be sent direct to Juliet or Sue in the timescales indicated, or could come back to AM as appropriate.

Minute 17.09.14: Contribution to Refurbishment of Yealand Old School

As an Area Meeting we appreciate the value of the Old School, and agree to contribute £500 to the projected refurbishment, from the Gifts and Legacies Fund, and encourage local meetings to consider donation too.

Minute 17.09.15: Letter from Trustees

We have received the attached letter outlining the work trustees have been engaged in over the year May2016 - May2017. We thank Joan for her account. We thank our trustees for their careful work over this difficult period.

Minute 17.09.16: Area Meeting banner

We agree that the 2mx50cm banner advertising the presence of Friends and our website is well placed hanging on the railings outside Stockport Meeting House, but remind local meetings that it is appropriate to borrow it when wanted.

Minute 17.09.17: Chaplain at Centre for Alternative Technology

Frances Hill informs us that she is becoming Chaplain to the Graduate School of the Environment where she teaches at CAT, in Machynlleth, Powys. We uphold Frances in this role.

Minute 17.09.18: Presence at Stop the Arms Fair

Celia Davies has told us of her presence, with PB, outside the Excel Centre where arms will be on sale later this month, pretty much indiscriminately to countries around the world.

They joined the Monday action where the focus was on Stop Arming Israel, and went out in front of a lorry with a banner. There was much goodwill - with singing and dancing, and football and juggling, alternating with bringing out child-size coffins representing Palestinian children who had been killed.

The next day, the Faiths Day, they found 4 Quakers concreted to the ground. As Quakers sat in the road for a Meeting for Worship, police arrested them. However, the placing of a line of bibles and bunches of grapes across the road stopped the police, apparently puzzling them.

Celia spoke of talking a lot to the police and G4S and relating to them through questions about family and children.

We thank Celia for her inspiring account.

Minute 17.09.19: Thanks

We thank Marple Friends for their hospitality.

**Signed in and on behalf of the Area Meeting,
*Frances A Hill, Clerk***

ATTACHMENTS, REPORTS & NOTICES

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EPISTLE FROM SUMMER SCHOOL 2017

The Friends Summer School 2017

The following epistle was discerned as part of a Meeting for Worship for Business on Wednesday 30th August 2017:

Forty-One Young People, Fifteen Staff and Seven caterers, including one toddler, gathered at Oswestry School from Wednesday 23rd August to Wednesday 30th August 2017. Although it felt strange to meet midweek we enjoyed having an extra night together! Many of us feel that Summer School is the highlight of our year, and this year was no exception. There was no day we did not look forward to. Our theme for the week was 'Being Ourselves', exploring identity, and how we see ourselves physically, emotionally and spiritually. It was a good theme to have, because for us Summer School is the place where we can just be ourselves, and be happy. We feel free and accepted, and that we don't have to worry about anything for a week.

Our speaker sessions were interesting, educational and a lot of fun. We learned about and discussed different genders and identities, types of community, virtual reality, and how to explore and examine our own identities. We even questioned reality! We also enjoyed storytelling, meeting birds of prey and exploring Oswestry. There was enough diversity that everyone found something to enjoy, and we had lots of meaningful discussions in sessions and outside.

We feel that summer school is special because there is nowhere we feel more comfortable and accepted. We try to build a place where everyone is friends, supports each other, and no one is ashamed to be who they are. It's a safe environment, it's our yearly reset button.

We've seen old friends we haven't seen all year and often carry on like we never left. We also met new amazing people that we might not have met otherwise.

Although we arrived safely together on the Wednesday some of us were waiting for big news in the form of GCSE results on the Thursday, and those who received them were held in the light by the community.

We played a lot of games! We loved swimming, and the older stronger swimmers enjoyed thinking of ways to make sure everyone was included and could enjoy using the pool.

On Monday the Young People's Team took responsibility for taking us into wonderland for the day, with workshops and entertainment involving, with a theme and costumes of Alice, the Mad Hatter and the Cheshire Cat among others.

For some of us it was the first time we've properly ministered in Meeting For Worship. We spoke, we wrote on prayer flags and shared things we've read in different ways. Together we shared epilogue in the evenings which included

songs and affirmations. We sang songs together, some well-known and others not so much, as well as some written by Staff. It's a space for young Quakers to meet other young people and learn about Quakerism in a fun and relaxed way. It made us look at the world in a calmer way.

The caterers took everybody's dietary needs and requirements into consideration when preparing the food and always succeeded in making delicious meals enjoyed by everyone.

Summer School is a unique place and we are glad to be part of it. The community we form is unlike any other. It's a community which helps us develop into better people and gives us a clean slate and a fresh start to truly be ourselves. We are thankful for the financial, practical logistical, and spiritual help from parents, guardians, local and area meetings, and the welcome and support from Oswestry school, town and local meeting itself, that allows us to have this week together every year and see how we grow over time.

Summer School 2017

Letter from Trustees

Dear AM Friends

This letter is intended to give you a flavour of the work Trustees have been engaged in during the year May 16 – May17

We have met with our fund manager from Rathbone Greenbank for the annual review of AM investments and we have ensured that LMs have completed their annual health and safety checks, this year paying particular attention to their first aid training needs. We were informed of the birth, and provided funding for, the Peace Education Project in schools which a group of Friends including two Trustees are now enthusiastically developing.

However apart from news, information and requests from individual LMs, by far the main focus of our attention during the above year has been our relationship with Wilmslow Guild as their landlord and lease holder. The Guild, situated adjacent to Wilmslow LM, provides educational and social activities for the local community. Recently there has been little contact between the two groups apart from an AM Trustee attending the Guild's AGM. Towards the end of 2015 we were alerted to the fact that the Guild had applied for an extension of their licence to have music and dance on Sundays. This proposal drew letters of complaint and a petition from the neighbours about noise and parking. Around the same time the Clerk received a letter from the Guild Principal intimating that they needed to be considering their future.

Wilmslow Meeting and Trustee representatives met with Guild representatives in early 2016 with the intention of using mediating skills to iron out the rift with the neighbours. The Guild however reiterated their concern about long term planning for development of their activities. To this end they made a request to buy the freehold from ECAM to enable them to have control of the site. Although the lease doesn't terminate till 2063 they wished to have ample time for their considerations.

At every Trustee meeting since the item has been on the agenda, always being mindful of "waiting in the Spirit". We have liaised closely with Wilmslow Meeting, listening to their views and concerns and also been empathic to the needs of the Guild. We know the site is very valuable in monetary terms and the money released could be used to build Quaker retirement homes, a new MH somewhere in ECAM etc. These fantasies could be tempting but as Trustees we have been aware of our duty of care for future generations of Friends in Wilmslow and the continuation and visibility of Quaker values generally.

A long discussion took place at our March meeting when all the issues were re-explored. We were reminded of the injunction "what does love require of us?"

Following discernment a decision was reached neither to sell nor extend the lease. Our intention is to support the Guild in a loving way, financially by continuing the £80pa rent which is fixed for the lifetime of the lease and working through our concerns together, respectfully hearing each other.

This account gives a shortened version of what has necessarily been a lengthy process which has involved much work particularly by the Trustee responsible for ECAM's connection with the Guild . It will continue to be a work in progress. At all times we have done our best to follow the Quaker business method being guided by our "red book", the writers of which have been guided by the Spirit.

In Friendship

Joan Armstrong (Clerk)

E mail letter from Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, to AMs 02/09/ 2017

Dear Friends

This year's Yearly Meeting gave all Quakers in Britain an exciting challenge – for our meetings and committees to become more diverse. Now I'm looking for suggestions on just how we can do that. This isn't a formal request – just an invitation to anyone who might want to send ideas, so please feel free to share this message with other Friends.

This is one part of minute 38 (the substantive minutes were sent to you recently – and are also [available online](#)).

Minute 38: Living out our faith in the world: working with others to make a difference.

We have heard the call to examine our own diversity, particularly in our committee and organisational structure, locally and nationally. Diversity has several key dimensions and more may emerge in the future. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to look at how we can remove barriers and actively seek wider participation in the full life of our meetings, paying particular attention to race and age diversity and to keep Yearly Meeting informed in their annual report.

Meeting for Sufferings will receive this in early October, and as its Secretary, I'll be helping plan a process of exploration. There won't be 'quick fixes', and the exploration may take some time. It's possible that Sufferings will set time aside next year, once local and area Meetings have had a chance to reflect.

[Our Faith in the Future](#) says that Quakers in Britain want our meetings to be loving, inclusive and all-age. So I know this is a 'live' issue, and I've already heard from some Friends who have started talking about inclusion in local meetings. I'd love to hear from anyone who might have suggestions about *how* we can explore these issues – in all parts of our Yearly Meeting.

I would be grateful for any reflections on *process*. How can we challenge each other, working towards positive change, while also loving and upholding everyone in our community? What tools can we use? Whose skills and experience can we draw on? Who could be our allies?

Suggestions and ideas sent to sufferings@quaker.org.uk would be very welcome.

In Friendship,

Juliet Prager

Deputy Recording Clerk, RCO

Preparation for Quaker Life Rep Council, October 2017

I would be grateful for any responses – individual or from meetings, to the questions below. I will collate these and share with other reps. Please send to Sue Pounder, ECAM Deputy Quaker Life Rep.



What changes to our models of worship, business and community might enable our Local or Area Meetings to flourish as lively and faithful communities, grounded in our faith and practice, yet open and imaginative in living them out?

Have you visited Quaker meetings in other parts of our Yearly Meeting or abroad in other Yearly Meetings? What spoke to you, inspired you or challenged you about other models of worship, witness?

Links for Stop the Arms Fair

(See Minute 17.08.18)

Every two years, the UK hosts the world's largest arms fair - the four-day Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) show. This is an inside look at the 2015 Arms Fair

www.aljazeera.com/news/2015/10/world-largest-weapons-show-151006114526162.html

Day One: Stop Arming Israel:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TycoeuajnCs>

Day Two: No Faith in War:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZDg6j_lj5Bk

Hundreds of people with No Faith in War came together to block deliveries to the arms fair on day two of the #StopDSEI week of action.

Find out more at stopthearmsfair.org.uk



Saying 'no' to the arms fair | Quakers in Britain

<https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/saying-no-to-the-arms-fair>

A clear 'no' to the arms trade. Photo credit: Jess Hurd. Groups of Quakers are travelling from across Britain to support a week of nonviolent, prayerful action at the ...

NOTICES

Collection: Marple Friends would like to thank ECAM Friends for giving £74.18 to Medicine San Frontiers in the lunchtime collection.

Friday 15th September 7:30pm “The Bundle” (65 minutes, for age 16+)
Warrington Meeting House 1b Academy Place, Warrington WA1 2NR

Performed by the Journeyman Theatre, *The Bundle* has been commissioned by QARN (Quaker Asylum Seeker and Refugee Network) and the performance is hosted by Warrington Amnesty International.

Based closely on the story of a real woman and her three young children, *The Bundle* follows Adilah’s domestic persecution and denial of human rights in Chechnya. Removed from her Russian homeland by her Chechen father, abducted into a forced marriage and then subjected to a life of servitude, she takes the ultimate risk in plotting her escape to the UK. Here she finds a home but also encounters the Home Office’s ‘hostile environment’ with regard to asylum seekers and refugees. The play moves from the tradition of the folk story to that of biting satire as it charts Adilah’s bid for freedom, safety and hope.

Booking: GILL HARDY 01925 267001, 07778060443,
gill.hardy@tesco.net

Free of charge, donations to groups working with refugees & asylum seekers

Friday 22nd September, 7.30 pm at Stockport Quaker Meeting House
Common security: What gives us security? How do we define it? & the implications? Exploration, and talk by Jenny Clegg, organised by Stockport for Peace

Jenny is a Writer and researcher on China, and previously led a university course on Asian Pacific studies.

Poster attached

Saturdays September 23rd and 30th 2017, Peace Education Training, Stockport Meeting House, 2 Cooper Street, Stockport, SK1 3DW

Organised by Peace Education Project with support from East Cheshire Area Quaker Meeting, Facilitated by Ellis Brooks (Acting Peace Education Programme Manager for Quakers in Britain)

For further information please contact: Rachel Lewis at rachel17lewis@gmail.com

Friday 29th September, 7pm, Disley Community Centre, Buxton Old Road, Disley, SK12 2BB

An outreach session focussing on refugees and forced migration including a performance from the Manchester Women's Asylum Seekers Together choir and a discussion led by Till Geiger. All welcome

Conservative Party Conference 2nd – 4th October Vigils with Manchester & Warrington Quakers. Mount Street Meeting House.

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday 2nd, 3rd, 4th October

Lunchtime silent vigils on the Meeting House steps 1– 2pm.

Silent meditation in the Meeting House 10am – 4pm. (Please join us for as long as you can)

Sunday 8th October, 1.30pm, Disley Meeting House

A talk by Tim Gee, the Forced Migration Programme Co-ordinator at Friends House, **Sanctuary Meetings** (see attached *Being a Sanctuary Meeting Questions and Answers*). Disley Friends are offering soup after Meeting for Worship. Bring your own sandwiches.

Saturday 14th October 10.30am, Geoffrey Durham, will speak on **'Worship and Gratefulness'** at Pendle Hill Area Meeting, Bolton Meeting House. Shared lunch and all welcome.

Saturday 21st October 10.00am – 4pm Enquirers' Day, Wilmslow Meeting House

Open to new and long-standing attenders and enquirers. Light lunch and drinks provided.

Quaker Quest in Central Manchester Meeting House;

Wednesday 13th September EQUALITY

Wednesday 20th September SUSTAINABILITY

Wednesday 27th September WAR and PEACE

Wednesday 4th October ENCOUNTERING THE DIVINE IN EVERYONE

Further enquiries: margaretaalvert@hotmail.com

Saturday 28th October, 10.30 – 16.00, Church and Peace Event

Quaker Meeting House, 40 Bull St, Birmingham B4 6AF

Church and Peace in a world of conflict? Answering the biblical call to nonviolence. See attached poster.

Friends House Library trip is now Monday March 12th 2018.

Squeezing in a date in December was impractical, so Hilary Brooks has arranged a Friends' House Library visit in March on our behalf. Please contact Hilary if you would like to go to see and hear more about the workings of the Library. If she already has your name, please confirm with Hilary that the March date is convenient.

Being a Sanctuary Meeting – Questions and Answers

Your meeting is invited to become a Sanctuary Meeting – part of a national network of Quaker Meetings working together to replace the ‘environment of hostility’ towards newcomers to Britain with a culture of welcoming hospitality which answers that of God in every person.

What does being a Sanctuary Meeting mean?

Being a Sanctuary Meeting means a commitment to building a culture of welcome, challenging racism in all of its forms and helping change the laws on destitution, detention and deportation.

Where did the idea come from?

Quakers across Britain are working in different ways to welcome newcomers to the country, including by supporting and establishing City of Sanctuary groups, lobbying local councils, visiting detention centres and campaigning with the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network.

Friends expressed a desire for networking support for the things that are already happening and to set things up, and a coordinated way to work together for political change.

What support do Sanctuary Meetings get?

Sanctuary Meetings will be supported with regular teleconferences identifying political opportunities for change, publicity materials, and an annual retreat, training for those who want it, and pamphlets exploring the issues around destitution, detention and deportation. It also acts as a network for sharing ideas and supporting one another.

What kinds of thing would we do as a Sanctuary Meeting?

Every area is different, but based on things that are already happening, here are some of the things you might do as a Sanctuary Meeting:

- Holding at least one public meeting a year with migrant or BME-led anti-racist groups in your area

- Lobbying local politicians on issues of destitution, detention and deportation
- Assisting in campaigns to resist deportations
- With support from the training, finding ways of dismantling 'borders' to participation in Quaker community and campaigns.
- If your meeting has a local City of Sanctuary group, affiliating with it, or if it doesn't, finding other ways of befriending and accompanying people seeking sanctuary.
- If your meeting is based in the countryside, linking up with a more urban group to provide holidays or short breaks for asylum seekers.
- If your meeting is close to a Quaker school, working together on projects to assist asylum seeking children.
- If your meeting is within travelling distance of an immigration detention centre, at least one person joining a visiting group, upheld by – and reporting back to – the meeting.

What is the relationship between Sanctuary Meetings and City of Sanctuary?

Many Quakers support local City of Sanctuary groups – local networks that welcome people seeking sanctuary. Sanctuary Meetings are actively encouraged to be part of local City of Sanctuary/Town of Sanctuary networks.

What is the relationship between Sanctuary Meetings and the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network?

The Sanctuary Meetings Project has been developed with Quakers across Britain including many members of the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network. The regular advocacy teleconference will also be co-hosted by the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network.

Our Meeting is already doing things to welcome people seeking sanctuary. What difference would it make to be a Sanctuary Meeting?

Part of the rationale for the Sanctuary Meetings Project is to provide a way for Quakers and Quaker meetings already active in the movement to

welcome people seeking sanctuary with a coordinated political voice for change. It also meets the request for infrastructural support such as training, retreats and networking.

Our Meeting doesn't do anything to welcome people seeking sanctuary yet. Can we still become a Sanctuary Meeting?

Absolutely yes. Through the training and discussions in your meeting, we hope you will find the actions that are right for your community.

My Meeting doesn't feel able to do anything to welcome people seeking Sanctuary, but I do. What can I do?

You can still join the lobbying teleconferences as an individual. Just email your name, telephone number and where you live to timothyg@quaker.org.uk to receive invites.

What does 'Sanctuary' mean in this context?

Adapted from the definition offered by the Quaker Jim Corbett who co-founded the Sanctuary Churches Movement in the US, we understand a Sanctuary Meeting as a protective community with people whose basic human rights are being violated by government officials. The public practice of sanctuary also holds the state accountable for its violation of human rights.

How do we become a Sanctuary Meeting?

Being a Sanctuary Meeting is a whole-meeting commitment. To become a Sanctuary Meeting, take the idea (perhaps with this Q and A) to your local Meeting for Worship for Business. You don't need to decide what activities you will engage in straight away. The starting point is simply to identify one or two people willing to act as a link with the Programme Coordinator for one or two years, then to email their name and telephone number to timothyg@quaker.org.uk .

How long will the project last?

Sanctuary Meetings is legacy funded to the end of 2019. There will be a review in mid-2019 to which all participating Meetings will be able to contribute.

