



Nottinghamshire and
Derbyshire Area Quaker
Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends
Annual Report and
Accounts 2023



ANNUAL REPORT: CONTENTS

The annual report and accounts for Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting, usually abbreviated to Notts & Derby Area Quaker Meeting (N&DAQM), for the year 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023.

The report is based on contributions received from local meetings, Area Meeting role holders and the Area Meeting trustees.

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Annual Report Of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

nottsandderbyquakers.org.uk

Charity Registration Number 1134531

Address:

Friends Meeting House, 25 Clarendon Street, Nottingham NG1 5JD

Website www.nottsandderbyquakers.org.uk

Status and Objectives

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain is a Christian denomination established in the seventeenth century. In legal terms it is a charity for the advancement of religion. Britain Yearly Meeting is the final constitutional authority of the Religious Society of Friends in Great Britain. Its membership consists of all those who belong to its Area Meetings. Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting is one of the constituent Area Meetings within Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM).

The object of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting is the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain in the area of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire and beyond.

This report covers the year 1st January 2023 to 31st December 2023.

It sets out the charitable objectives in more detail and gives some examples of how they are met. In it, trustees have sought to give as faithful as possible an account of the ways Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting has worked to these charitable objectives, and to meet its legal, financial, spiritual and social responsibilities.

Quaker Meeting for Worship (MfW) is the bedrock of Quaker faith and practice. Details of meetings for worship held by our eight constituent Local Meetings (LMs) are set out on the next page. Bingham Local Meeting laid itself down in 2022, and Bingham Friends continued to meet in each others' homes in 2023 as a worshipping group ¹.

This is followed by a brief **outline of activities** in our various local meetings – activities undertaken by meetings as a whole as well as individual Friends (the word 'Friend' is used interchangeably with 'Quaker'). This includes successes and achievements in 2023, and reflections on the difficulties and challenges faced.

¹ Worshipping groups are not open to the public. Bingham Friends are now recorded as individual unattached members of the Area Meeting.

Quaker Meetings in Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire
Area Quaker Meeting: Details of Meetings for Worship ²

Bakewell Friends Meeting House
Chapel Row, Matlock Street.
Bakewell, DE45 1EL
Meeting for Worship: each Sunday at 10.30am

Beeston Meeting is held at
Chilwell Memorial Hall,
128 High Road, Chilwell, NG9 4AT
Meeting for Worship: each Sunday at 10.30am

Chesterfield Friends Meeting House
27 Ashgate Road, Chesterfield, S40 4AG
Meeting for Worship: each Sunday at 10.30am

Derby Friends Meeting House,
St Helen's Street, Derby, DE1 3GY
Meeting for Worship: each Sunday at 10.45am and
each Tuesday at 12.30pm

Fritchley Friends Meeting House
Chapel Street, Fritchley, Belper, DE56 2FR
Meeting for Worship: each Sunday at 11am

Mansfield Friends Meeting House
Rosemary Street, Mansfield, NG19 6AB
Meeting for Worship: each Sunday at 10.30am

Nottingham Friends Meeting House
25 Clarendon Street, Nottingham, NG1 5JD
Meeting for Worship:
Each Sunday at 10.30am and each Thursday at 1pm.

Worksop Meeting is held in
Upstairs Meeting Room, Crossing Church and Centre,
Newcastle Street, Worksop S80 2AT
Meeting for Worship: 1st, 2nd and 4th Sundays at 10.15am

² Details correct as of 31st December 2023. Please see the Area Meeting website for any updates, directions etc.:
nottsandderbyquakers.org.uk

All our local meetings have contributed notes about their activities and practice over 2023 which have helped our Area Quaker Meeting to meet its charitable objectives.

1. Strengthening the Life and Witness of Quaker Meetings both in the area of Notts and Derby Area Quaker Meeting and beyond.

The Quaker Meeting for Worship is the bedrock of the Quaker community, its spiritual and practical life:

“A meeting for worship usually lasts for an hour. In Quaker worship there are no ministers or creeds. We first gather together in silence to quiet our minds In the stillness we open our hearts and lives to new insights and guidance. Sometimes we are moved to share what we discover with those present. We call this 'ministry'.³”

All the local meetings regularly held Sunday meetings for worship in person, as detailed above on page 4. In addition, some held weekday meetings, and additional meetings in outside venues apart from their Meeting House.

- most local meetings held blended meetings (combining remote access by Zoom with in-person meeting) on a regular (but not necessarily weekly) basis. Bakewell Meeting reported that this worked well, and was also used for their monthly Local Business Meetings; Mansfield Meeting regularly held their meetings blended. Derby Meeting also held ‘parallel’ meetings, in person and by zoom. While developing remote access since the Covid19 pandemic provided greater flexibility in the way Quakers held and attended meetings, some Friends have not always found it helpful, with one comment: *“... internet communication has become so dominant that it is an unwelcome distraction; although there are many advantages of online communications, purely face to face meeting are most valuable.”* Worksop Meeting continued to exchange ‘After Thoughts’ and ministry by email on the Sundays they did not hold in-person meetings. Chesterfield Meeting held a weekday evening meeting by zoom.
- One friend noted that: *‘.....weekly meeting for worship has provided a peaceful space for internal reflection and meditation on my place in our locality, at the MfW with friends, regarding my family, and neighbourhood relationships, with the aim of finding understandings of our differences and encouragement in sharing common values expressed in the testimonies of simplicity, trust, equality aspiring towards love and peace in our hearts.’*

³ ‘How Quakers worship’ www.quaker.org.uk/faith/our-faith/how-quakers-worship

- Friends regularly read items from the Quaker ‘Advices and Queries’ booklet during Meeting for Worship, as well as passages from the Quaker Faith and Practice Book of Christian Discipline (QF&P) ⁴

Building Community and Enriching Friends’ Spiritual Lives:

- Local meetings reported that they had held additional talks and discussions over the year on a variety of topics, and these helped to enrich Friends’ spiritual lives. Examples from local meetings included a monthly devotional meeting on ‘Things Eternal’; a session on ‘sharing life journeys’; a ‘Quaker response to the climate crisis’; a discussion on ‘Beyond Hope’; and a more light hearted discussion and sharing of ‘Amusing Poems’. On the 4th Sunday of the month Worksop Meeting held a study session, discussing a given topic of interest to Quakers, with a shorter Meeting for Worship.
- Local Meetings produced newsletters and e-bulletins on a monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly basis. These provided a channel for information, and a deeper more spiritual support; one meeting commented: *“We regard Bakewell Quaker News as a continuation of spoken ministry in a different format, as well as a medium to get to know each other better and to build community.”*



Worksop Walk: A very 'atmospheric' day at Clumber Park 21/1/23

- Building community was a central plank to much Quaker endeavour in 2023. This included ‘Friendship’ and ‘Bring-and-share’ lunches; a shared lunch once a month with children and young people helping in its preparation; the annual ‘Carols by Candlelight’ at Bakewell Meeting; caring for Meeting House gardens; and walks organised by Mansfield, Worksop and Bakewell Meetings. Chesterfield Meeting organised a Kindlers’ workshop day: *“What does love require of us?”* which was also attended by Friends from five other meetings.

- Whilst the number of children in our Local Meetings remained small, one meeting reported that *“We continue[d] to be prepared for any visiting children or young people with safeguarding, training and materials [in place].”* Nottingham held a children’s meeting

⁴ *The Book of Christian Discipline of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.* An online copy is available at <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/>

every 2nd and 4th Sunday, and all age worship twice a year (summer and Christmas).

- Friends have also taken part in ‘Crafternoons’ and peer support sessions organised by Britain Yearly Meeting’s Local Development Worker for the East Midlands.
- All the meetings have libraries of varying sizes with books available to borrow, and most have subscriptions to journals and periodicals. Chesterfield Meeting reported that: *“Those new to the meeting have been introduced to the library and have appreciated being able to borrow books about Quakerism”* and Fritchley Meeting reported that two Friends have been indexing their library’s Historic Archive, alongside the more modern section available for regular borrowing.

2. Spreading the message of Quakers and developing the thought and practice of the Religious Society of Friends

It is not possible to report the full extent of activities undertaken by Friends in their own localities and in the wider community. Local meetings have however cited a variety of examples of ways they helped to promote Quakerism and develop Quaker thought and practice over the past year, as individual Friends and as Meetings, by working together with other faith groups, and living our Quaker testimonies.

2(a) Some examples of interfaith work included

- Derby Local Meeting had a representative on Derby SACRE (Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education); at Nottingham, a Friend was a member of Nottingham Interfaith Council; a Friend also attended Nottingham SACRE quarterly meetings.
- Bakewell Meeting was involved in Churches Together, and centrally involved in a hospitality programme and advocacy group for refugees and asylum seekers in Bakewell.
- A member of Beeston Meeting ran Centering Prayer Groups, including an ecumenical Centering Prayer weekend at Glenthorne .
- A Fritchley Friend organised regular interfaith meetings.
- Mansfield Meeting hosted the Mansfield Christian Fellowship every week.
- Worksop Meeting continued to enjoy a good working relationship with the Crossing Church from whom they rent a room for their Sunday worship.

2(b) Examples of working for the Quaker Peace Testimony included

- Fritchley Friends held monthly peace vigils in Belper.
- one Friend helped to organise a World Day of Prayer event at Chesterfield, another Friend attended and spoke at World Peace Day in Chesterfield;

Friends attended the protest against the arms trade and DSEI (Defence and Security Equipment International) Fair in London.

- Local Meetings supported Northern Friends Peace Board financially.
- Derby Meeting held Peace Bowl collections for Friends House in Moscow, Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions, and Quaker Bolivia Link: “Friends either send donations individually, or via the Peace Bowl... to preselected organisations.” Chesterfield Meeting also lists 12 charities – local and overseas - they made collections for; and other Local Meetings note that they have made regular collections for named charities.
- Three Workop Friends took part in a Quaker demonstration in Doncaster calling for peace in the Israeli Hamas conflict.

- Journey for Peace:

A Friend from Fritchley Meeting tells a story worthy of any ‘message in a bottle’ tale:

“During a Children's and Young People's Meeting in 2002 we decided to make a book called Journey for Peace. We all wrote a page about ourselves and our hopes and dreams for a peaceful world... I first sent the book to a friend in Amsterdam. Her 10 year old son wrote about himself and his wishes that all children could be friends, and she wrote a bit about herself.... Then it was sent to Catalonia, Spain... Then it travelled to Canberra, Australia...”

“It came back in 2003, then went with some passing Americans Friends... [and then] went missing for nearly 10 years, until October of 2023, I got a call from a UK Quaker who was in Seoul, South Korea. It was in the Quaker meetinghouse library there and had quite a few more entries. One woman wrote that she was on her second medical mission and had treated nearly 562 people with medical supplies with a team of volunteer nurses, doctors and others, after growing up in the Biafran War.... Her daughter is studying at Howard Law School: ‘She wants to be a peace broker and go around the world listening to leaders in conflict with their people, convincing them to choose peaceful ways of resolving conflict.’”

The journey continues: *“In October 2023 I left the Journey For Peace book with Redlands Meeting in Bristol...”*

2(c) Work and practice relevant to the Quaker testimony on equality in 2023 included:

- several local meetings in 2023 reported they were Quaker Sanctuary Meetings *“committed to joining local initiatives to build a culture of*

welcome, building alliances with groups opposing racism and to work to change the laws on destitution, detention, deportations and removals”⁵.



Mansfield: addressing the issues of Islamophobia in the Mansfield/Ashfield area.

- Mansfield Meeting met a representative from Communities Inc who were seeking to address issues of Islamophobia in the Mansfield/Ashfield area. They also reported that “*Our Meeting house is a busy place, welcoming representatives of many Groups and Societies.*” They ensure there is a display of relevant posters, leaflets and documents to bring the meaning

of Quakers to all who visit.

- Nottingham Meeting co-hosted an inter-faith book launch in partnership with Five Leaves Bookshop. The book was co-written by a Nottingham Friend and a Friend from London.⁶ (see photo page 10 below)
- Some Friends joined a Pride event in Chesterfield.



Book launch at Nottingham Meeting House, December 2023 (photo courtesy of Five Leaves Bookshop)

2(d) Testimony on Simplicity: “*The heart of Quaker ethics is summed up in the word ‘simplicity’. Simplicity is forgetfulness of self and remembrance of our humble status as waiting servants of God...*”⁷

- Bakewell Friends explored the testimony of simplicity in one of their fifth Sunday meetings
- Nottingham hosted an Area Meeting

seminar on Simpler Meetings, facilitated by the Quaker Local Support Worker for the East Midlands.

- Three new attenders contributed positively to the Meeting’s sharing of how Simple Meetings might work: “we are in the process of discerning a simpler and more effective way to run our Meeting....” (Derby LM)

⁵ See Quakers in Britain website for further information on Quaker Sanctuary Meetings: <https://www.quaker.org.uk/>

⁶ Jonathan Doering, Nim Njuguna: *Enlarging the Tent : Two Quakers in Conversation About Racial Justice Dialogues and Worksheets*

⁷ Simplicity and Equality: QF&P 20.27 <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/passage/20-27/>

2(e) Sustainability and the Environment

Simpler meetings are one way of endeavouring to make our meetings organisationally more sustainable, and sustainability is also of fundamental importance in Friends' concern and testimony on the environment. Our Meeting Houses have all sought ways of making their buildings more environmentally efficient by for example improving insulation; one revitalised a solar water heating system; Friends also took personal action at home (fitting heat pumps, installing a battery to

store solar energy, fitting water butts etc).

- Friends were involved in various 'green' initiatives; eg Belper Parks Nature Reserve and Belper Goes Green Festival.
- Many Friends used public transport in favour of private cars and actively practised car sharing and lift giving; and avoided flying if possible.
- What one meeting reported applied across many of our local meetings: *"individual friends were involved in many different local, national and international charities which reflect Quaker testimonies and illustrate their faith into action including: Amnesty International, Medecins Sans Frontieres, Homeless and Rootless at Christmas, The Shannon Trust, Sheffield Young Carers, Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme, working with Refugee and Asylum Seekers projects in Derby and Sheffield, Help Refugees, Extinction Rebellion and Hope Valley Climate Action."*

3. Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad

4. Funding the concerns that Quaker Meetings in the area have agreed to support

As with many of our charitable objectives, there was considerable overlap between them, and the notes below relate to both of these objectives. As detailed above, local meetings have made regular collections to support specific named charities at home and abroad. Individually and collectively (as a Local and an Area Meeting) Friends have supported Quaker organisations including Northern Friends Peace Board and Britain Yearly Meeting. In addition there were many practical ways that Friends have worked and contributed their time and resources. Acts of practical support, whether small or large, can help to make a difference, and these included:

- A small annual fund of £300 at one local meeting to address specific cases of hardship within the wider community (Bakewell Meeting).
- A collection for a Kenyan Friend who had come to this country to write his draft thesis (Derby Meeting).
- Support for Ukrainian refugees and those supporting them by providing a venue for meetings, teaching English, making home made soup for their monthly meeting (Chesterfield Meeting).

- Helping with care packs for ex-offenders (through the Probation Service); a Friend continued his work as secretary of the Stroke Club, a position he has held for 13 years (Derby Meeting)
- Supporting Blue Box Belper – working with young people and raising funds to build a youth and community centre.
- Volunteer at a local food bank; providing support and online sessions for her employer as a trained Mental Health First Aider; socks sent to prisoners at Wandsworth at Christmas (Fritchley Meeting).
- One Friend remained very active as a volunteer in the Development Education Centre in Sheffield (Worksop Meeting).

5. Providing for the pastoral care of individual Friends, including assistance to those in need and for education

Quaker Faith and Practice gives detailed guidance on the responsibilities of both eldership and pastoral care (formerly called oversight); it is recognised that there is considerable overlap between the two and of primary importance is “to meet regularly to uphold the meeting and its members in prayer”, and “to encourage attendance at meeting for worship.... ensure that the pastoral needs of everyone associated with the meeting are being noticed...”⁸

- Our meetings have various configurations of eldership and pastoral care to meet their needs, and that are within their capabilities.
- One meeting reports *“we had a full team of three Elders for 2023, supported by a larger team of Duty Elders who share the load [by taking] responsibility for the Sunday Meeting for Worship on a rota basis.... We have had two appointed Pastoral Friends in place over the year. The meeting sees pastoral care as a shared responsibility.”* (Bakewell LM)
- The four of our smaller Local Meetings were recorded as operating a system of collective responsibility for eldership and pastoral care⁹.
- Beeston reported: *“We maintained good contact with anyone who cannot come to Meeting due to ill health, including visiting. We discuss the needs of Friends at each Local Business Meeting.”* They further reported that Social media can be a useful adjunct in providing support: *“We have a WhatsApp group that helps us keep in touch and be supportive when members are ill or in need of a lift to Meeting.”*
- Practice reported by another meeting is common amongst all the meetings: *“Friends were cared for throughout the year by visiting, sending cards and*



Bakewell MH: ready for Meeting for Worship on Sunday. See also page 12.

⁸ <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk/> chapter 12 para. 12 and 13

⁹ Tabular Statement of Notts & Derby Area Meeting, at 31 December 2023

staying connected via phone calls etc.” and “Friends endeavour to offer lifts to Meeting for Worship and other meetings and events to those without their own transport.” (Chesterfield Meeting)

- Another important consideration reported by one meeting is “*Having new Friends has ... caused Pastoral Friends to consider more closely what our pastoral care should include.*” (Derby Meeting)
- One meeting reported that as well as occasional home visits, Friends provided some practical support by “*‘blitzing’ an elderly Friend’s garden that was badly overgrown to such an extent it was restricting access to his front door.*” (Nottingham Meeting)

6. Maintaining and developing our meeting houses as places for public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world

The Area Meeting owns six meeting houses. Whilst trustees carry overall responsibility for these, day to day running and maintenance is carried out by Friends at the local meetings, by appointing premises’ or stewardship committees who consult with trustees regarding any major decisions. Without each local meeting’s knowledge, hard work, care and diligence, maintaining and developing our meeting houses would not be possible.

- “[*Developing our meeting house*] has been a major area of success for the meeting over the past year as we develop the building as a facility for the people of Mansfield”. Amongst other things Mansfield Meeting also purchased a sum-up card reader for receiving payments from hirers and donors; their quinquennial report identified necessary work which will need to be carried out on their flat roof in 2024.
- Derby Meeting also received a quinquennial report; issues identified have been addressed by the Meeting’s premises committee. A car crashed into its curtilage wall late in the year, and repairs were due to be carried out in 2024 after coordinating with heritage builders, insurance, police and the council conservation officer (the building is Grade 2 listed).
- Chesterfield Meeting reported significant repairs were needed when a drain collapsed and there was an area of subsidence in the car park. The Probation Service Community Pay Back Team continued to help maintain the meeting house grounds.
- At Nottingham Meeting the Gardening Group re-formed and worked hard to improve the appearance of the front of the Meeting House and its garden.
- Bakewell Meeting appointed a paid part-time Meeting House manager and reported:



Bakewell MH: set up for a community event one Saturday.

“The appointment is working well and has provided additional capacity for promotion of the Meeting House as a resource for community use, managing bookings and the building.” The post was created after considerable thought and planning at a local business meeting level and by Bakewell Meeting’s stewardship committee, as well as consultation with the Area Meeting trustees.

- Fritchley held spring and autumn gardening sessions, with individual Friends contributing to work in-between: *“We have a beautiful garden and aim to garden organically and to encourage wildlife.”*

7. Administering and maintaining the organisation of Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

- Fritchley Meeting reported that one Friend did work to update the Employee Handbook while a trustee of the Area Meeting; another is the area’s representative on Northern Friends’ Peace Board; a third member was appointed Supporting Friends Co-ordinator, and another served as the Quaker Life¹⁰ Representative.
- Derby Meeting reported taking part in Meeting House Matters¹¹ online meetings with others from around the UK.
- Chesterfield Friends filled a number of Area Meeting roles: Correspondence Clerk, and Website Administrator; assistant Treasurer (to 3/08/23); Membership Clerk; Supporting Friends Co-ordinator (to 8/09/23); Member of the Area Nominations Committee.
- Bakewell Friends also served the Area in a number of ways: as a member of Area Meeting Nominations Committee; on the Burial Grounds Committee; one Friend tutored on the Woodbrooke Treasurer’s course; another served on Meeting for Sufferings; and one Friend dealt with End-of-Life Matters.
- A majority of our meetings made contributions to Britain Yearly Meeting, either collectively or in direct donations from individuals.
- A Worksop Friend served the latter part of the year as a trustee. Others contributed to the BYM’s cultural and spiritual life by making contributions to the Appleseed newsletter (edited and circulated by a Worksop Friend); a Friend organised the chamber music groups at the annual Choral and Chamber weekend (part of Quaker Music Network); another was a member of the Quaker Arts network.

¹⁰ See <https://www.quaker.org.uk/faith/quaker-life> for details of the work of Quaker Life

¹¹ [Meeting House Matters | Quakers in Britain](#)

Successes and Achievements All the local meetings were invited to identify successes and achievements. Amongst these

- Bakewell Meeting reported: Zoom had continued to make it easier for Friends to take part in committees, small groups and evening learning events which were much more inclusive than similar events at the Meeting House; blended worship enabled participation by people unable to get to the Meeting House, and the creation of a Duty Elder team had demonstrated the potential for an approach to sharing responsibility for tasks more widely amongst Friends.
- Beeston Meeting reported: *“We are still here and we are growing still. We have some younger members. Our average attendance is between 12 – 14.”*
- Amongst other things Chesterfield Meeting reported: *“There has been thoughtful dialogue towards planning for the future. This has included our vision for the meeting, how we might do some roles differently and increasing our visibility in our locality.”* Individual Friends had taken on more responsibility, which considerably reduced the work previously done by the treasurer. The Premises Committee had benefitted from taking advice from an expert with cavity wall insulation being installed.
- Derby Meeting reported their numbers attending had remained fairly steady over the year, and that having several new attenders had been very positive. Use of the Meeting House building had slowly increased (but not yet back to pre-Covid levels) with a number of new hirers (eg the Probation Service, U3A and NCT). The Area Meetings for Worship by Zoom had allowed them to feel connected with Friends from other Meetings in the Area.
- Fritchley Meeting Friends were pleased that one long-time Attender was welcomed into Membership and that they continued to attract occasional new Attenders; a Friend acted as Nurturing Friend to two people seeking Membership. In addition: *“It was lovely to have shared events such as going to the Worksop Quakers’ walk in January.”*



Mansfield: their notice board acts as a good information point about Quakers for visiting groups

- Mansfield said that their major success was *“re-establishing the Meeting House as a centre for many worthy organisations to hold their meetings.”* They had also moved successfully from having an employed Warden to establishing the role of Resident Friend, and established the Meeting House as a Polling Station for elections.
- Nottingham is by far our largest local meeting. It reported : *“We have a vibrant community. A number of young*

Quakers/Attenders from the two universities [started] to attend Meeting on Sundays and we have a good deal of new attenders... Children's Meeting restarted in earnest and regularly hosted 4-6 children."

- *Workshop Meeting reported "we have several new Attenders; attendance at Sunday MfW varies between 3 and 9 Friends; we count 'keeping going' as a success... The 'distance' meeting on the 3rd Sunday of each month has continued successfully."*

Meetings also reflected on **Difficulties and Challenges** they faced in 2023.

- *Workshop Meeting reported: "We share the difficulties and challenges experienced by many meetings in appointing Friends to the roles local meetings are recommended and expected to have. This difficulty is further heightened because we are a small and to some large degree ageing meeting."*
- *Nottingham Meeting also had difficulties filling roles: "We have vacancies all over the place. It is a real challengea very small group of dedicated Friends [perform] numerous functions ... and are burdened with multiples roles. There is a risk of burnout and we need more people to share the weight."*
- *In similar vein, Mansfield Meeting reported: "During the Covid lockdowns we had a severe reduction in the number of Friends. This applied both to those occupying key official positions but also to people attending meetings for worship..."*
- *'Doing all the jobs' is a common theme and difficulty across all our meetings:*
- *Fritchley Meeting reported: "Developing a fairer division of tasks and input is something that we are working towards, in order to build a resilient meeting going forward."*
- *Derby Meeting reported that "... post Covid, our four pastoral group numbers have been halvedThis has been part of the reason why roles are more difficult to fill, and highlighted the urgent need for Simpler Meeting plans to emerge."*
- *Chesterfield Meeting reported: "We are an ageing meeting with only a small number of Friends able to take on roles. Although we have been able to make appointments for most roles for another year, rather than the triennium, while we give roles further consideration, we were not able to bring forward any names to serve as elders."* Maintaining the meeting house and grounds has also been challenging for the Meeting's Premises committee, and identifying suitable contractors to carry out specific pieces of work.
- *Illness has been a difficulty for Friends at Beeston Meeting. Bakewell Meeting reported they had held three Memorial Meetings to give thanks for*

the lives of Friends in 2023. They too have fewer active people to undertake roles: *“In response we are looking at slimming down the number of formal roles, sharing responsibility across teams of Friends, and using paid assistance with the management of the Meeting House.”*

Area Meeting Membership

Overall membership in 2023 was 231. This compares with 232 in 2022. In addition there were 129 Attenders (Friends identified by LMs (Local Meetings) as in regular attendance at Meeting for Worship, but not in formal membership) giving an overall total of 360.

The area meeting appointed a new Supporting Friends' Co-ordinator in September 2023, the previous co-ordinator having completed her period of office after extending it by a year. The new co-ordinator reported:

“During 2023, five people have been accepted into Membership – two at Chesterfield Local Meeting, one at Beeston, one at Fritchley, and one at Worksop. One Transfer Out was accepted, and one Laying Down of Membership.

“In June 2023 the Area Meeting sent its response to Meeting for Sufferings with reflections and varied views on Membership from across our Area Meeting. It was felt that membership is still necessary, but that the present process is cumbersome and that it should be possible to be a member of Britain Yearly Meeting and not just one Area Meeting.”

The Area Meeting Membership Clerk extended her period of service into 2024 to ensure timely submission of the Area tabular statement for 2023 to Britain Yearly Meeting. She also reported ongoing important work: *“The list of members needs more accurate updating; this will involve working with all the local meetings. I would be very happy to work together with the new Membership Clerk (when appointed) to hand over this and all other parts of the role.”*

Quaker Meeting for Business

The Area Meeting in Session – its Meeting for Business - is the major decision making body of the area Quaker meeting. It is also responsible for appointing Area Meeting role holders, including the Area Meeting clerk and co-clerk or correspondence clerk, the treasurer and assistant treasurer, the elders and pastoral friends to serve in local meetings, and the charity's trustees. It appoints a nominations committee to assist in this process by bringing forward names of Friends able to serve in these roles.

It should be noted that our area meeting was unable to appoint a co-clerk, or an assistant treasurer, in 2023. This reflects difficulties experienced across many

Quaker meetings, both at local and area levels, in making appointments at this time.

It is a central tenet of Quaker understanding that all life is sacred and that there is no clear demarcation between the sacred and the secular. It is in this spirit that Quakers refer to their business meetings as 'meetings for worship for business'. Quaker business meetings (whether at local, area, or national level) seek discernment rather than consensus in their decision making, by utilizing quiet reflection and spiritual guidance rather than heated debate. The clerk is both a member of the meeting, and its servant ("an official who whose role lies somewhere between chairperson, secretary, and servant!"¹² and will 'stand away from the table' if they wish to contribute to discussion around an issue. They will write a minute at an appropriate time, reading it back to the meeting to ask if it is acceptable.

Notts and Derby Area Meeting for Worship for Business met in session four times in 2023, each time by Zoom. The Correspondence Clerk acted as Minuting Clerk for three of these meetings; one meeting was co-clerked by a Friend acting as clerk 'this time'.

The Correspondence Clerk played an important part in strengthening the life and witness of the local meetings and area meeting in 2023, ensuring that business continued by holding regular area meetings, contacting Local meetings, collating replies to requests from Meeting for Sufferings. In addition she kept lists of role holders, liaised with trustees and visited local meetings when this was possible. Lack of communication between local meetings and not enough attendees at Area Meetings were seen as challenges. Looking Forward to 2024, outreach linked to the 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox is seen as an opportunity. The Correspondence Clerk combined the role with Website Administrator for the Area Meeting.

¹² S. Jocelyn Burnell: Broken for Life (The 1989 Swarthmore Lecture) p2

Safeguarding

Safeguarding remained a central responsibility for trustees, underscored by the appointment of a new Safeguarding Co-ordinator by the Area Meeting in March 2023, who reported:

“Close collaboration between the Lead Trustee for Safeguarding and the Area Meeting Safeguarding Co-ordinator ensures that the Trustee Body stays abreast of any significant developments. Supported by local meeting Safeguarding Friends, they diligently execute the safeguarding policy throughout our meetings.

A comprehensive review of the Safeguarding Policy led to minor updates, prioritising its relevance. Despite the limited number of children attending some of our local meetings, consistent adherence to our policy is imperative for their safety during meetings, activities, and events. Moreover, we acknowledge the expanding responsibility for safeguarding adults, particularly within an ageing membership demographic.

“To foster best practices, the Area Safeguarding Co-ordinator engaged with counterparts in York to exchange insights on policy implementation. Such collaborative efforts aim to fortify our ability to safeguard our membership effectively. We continue to maintain our membership with Thirtyone: eight [31:8], a leading organisation providing safeguarding advice and training. The Safeguarding Coordinator has actively participated in various courses offered, including 'How to protect adults from harm', 'Managing offenders', and a comprehensive two-day training for 'Safeguarding Leads'.”

Eldership and Pastoral Care

As stated above, Elders and Pastoral Friends are appointed by the area meeting in session, to serve in their individual local meetings (see also page 11 above). The group of elders and pastoral friends met twice in 2023. In May, amongst other matters, they discussed the importance of each considering the needs of other meetings besides their own local meeting. For meetings which did not have specially appointed Friends (but a shared responsibility) it was an opportunity to consider how these roles might be carried out. In the November meeting, they looked at the importance of involving the whole worshipping community in discussions about how to organise the Local Meeting and share responsibility: everyone can make a contribution.

List of Trustees

Trustees serving the Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting in 2023 were

Name	Appointed (and re-appointed)	Served/serving until
David King	19 th May 2018 (Re-appointed 19 th May 2021)	18th May 2024
Gwen Schaffer	10 th September 2022	10th September 2025.
Grant Fletcher-Harrison	11 th July 2020	10th July 2023
Zoe Jackson	11 th July 2020	10th July 2023
<i>Clerk to Trustees¹³</i>		<i>10th July 2023</i>
Roger Ibbett	12 th September 2020 (Re-appointed 11 th September 2023)	11 th September 2026
<i>Clerk to Trustees</i>	<i>11th December 2023</i>	<i>11th September 2025</i>
Ian Forrester	12 th February 2022	12 th February 2025
Paul Nicholas	10 th June 2023	10 th June 2026

Holding Trustees

Friends Trusts Limited, Friends House, 173 -177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Trustees Report

In 2023 the Trustees met nine times. For a period (10/7/23 – 11/12/23) the area meeting had been unable to appoint a Clerk to Trustees, and during this period trustees undertook the duties by agreement and on an ad hoc basis. In addition to the trustees, the Area Meeting treasurer attends meetings in an ex-officio capacity.

Data from questionnaires circulated to local meetings by the Clerk to Trustees early in 2023 high lighted:

¹³ Note that the Clerk is a fully functioning member of the trustees' body as well as its servant, as explained in the section on Quaker Meeting for Business, page 17 above

- Widespread difficulty filling roles, especially Treasurer, Clerk & Safeguarding. Beeston shared its success in sharing out duties according to Friends' skills, rather than roles.
- Very little Quaker use of Meeting Houses except on Sundays.
- Limited sense of connection to BYM (Britain Yearly Meeting).
- Need for clearer information from AM (Area Meeting) & Trustees on policies, etc.
- Wish for more connection between Meetings.
- Need for outreach.

It will be noted from the report above that some of these issues have been addressed with a certain measure of success; others remain problematic in particular appointments to various key roles both at area and local level (including, at area level: assistant treasurer and a co-clerk to work with the correspondence clerk, as well as more trustees, and Friends from different local meetings to serve on the area nominations committee).

In 2023, and in addition to its various responsibilities relating to premises (and residential accommodation) owned by the Area Meeting trustees:

- Updated the Employee Handbook (3-year review, next due 2026). (This is also referred to in the report from Fritchley Meeting, see page 13 above.)
- Contacted the Local Development Worker through the clerk, to discuss organising a session on challenging hate speech.
- Reviewed the Area's Safeguarding policy (reviewed annually) (see also **Safeguarding** page 16 above).
- Considered the timetables for review of other policy and governance documents: Grants policy: 3-year review, next due 2024; GDPR (Data Protection) policy: 3-year review, next due 2025.
- Discussed the possible creation of an AM Outreach committee.
- Communicated to local meetings through the Area Meeting treasurer the new hourly rate of the real living wage.
- The Safeguarding Co-ordinator & Prison Chaplain attended the 31:8 'Managing Offenders'. One member attended the course for Quaker trustees.
- In November trustees reminded local meetings that hardship and educational grants are available to be accessed by Friends within the Area. Educational grants also cover training for local and area positions Friends might take up in the new triennium.
- The trustees is a small group and hopes to encourage more Friends from local meetings, especially those not represented, to come forward to offer their service. Although small, it is a supportive group who have met the challenges of working in the post-Covid environment: Quakers, like all churches in the UK, have struggled as the pandemic exacerbated existing

trends of declining membership and attendance. Economic demands, familial and community duties and other pressures on Friends have limited their abilities to serve the Meeting.

- Trustees acknowledge the hard work of non-trustees contributing to the work of the Area Meeting, including all those who contributed to this report, and the contribution to their work of a ‘link representative’ for part of 2023 (this is a system instituted by the Area Meeting in 2016 whereby members or attenders could be appointed as linked representatives with trustees, and contribute to the work of trustees in such matters as property maintenance, review and formulation of policies, etc. It also enables a Friend to find out more about the role if they are interested in serving as a trustee.) (Note that trustees are normally appointed from the Area Meeting’s own membership.)

Governance

The charity is run in accordance with our governing document, adopted on 19th July 2008, updated May 2022 and a Charity Commission Scheme dated 8th June 2015.

The AM in session appoints trustees, after nomination by the AM Nominations Committee. We encourage new trustees to attend the “Being a Quaker Trustee” course held by Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, unless they have recent relevant Quaker trustee experience.

Public Benefit

Our charitable aims and public benefit are set out in this report, along with examples of how we met them in 2023.

Trustees’ Statement

The trustees confirm that they have complied with the requirements of section 4 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission for England and Wales to the best of their ability.

As an AM we offer public religious worship and maintain buildings for this purpose. This fulfils our central charitable purpose of advancing religion. We work to create Quaker communities where learning, pastoral care and other activities enrich our lives. This enables us to serve society on local, national and international levels.

Structure of the AM

As stated above, we have eight constituent LMs: Bakewell, Beeston, Chesterfield, Derby, Fritchley, Mansfield, Nottingham and Worksop. Six of these use Meeting Houses owned by the AM.

Though Trustees and the AM hold overall responsibility, much of the day-to-day running of our LMs and Meeting Houses is done by LMs. This is in line with our Equality testimony. Each LM works to fulfil our charitable aims as they feel led through Meetings for Worship for Business.

Financial Management

Our Area Meeting Treasurer, and Assistant Area Meeting Treasurer (to June 2023), have undertaken the day-to-day management of the Area Meeting's finances and the five Area Meeting funds, which they carried out on behalf of the trustees. The Treasurer regularly attended trustees' meetings and prepared the Area Meeting budget and collation of the annual accounts.

Specific aspects of our financial management have included:

- The use of the QuickBooks cloud accounting system, which has enabled an accurate oversight of our Area Meeting and Local Meeting finances throughout the year.*
- QuickBooks facilitates the production of frequent and detailed reports. It is also a useful tool for producing budgets and enables us to monitor trends, particularly as we now have seven years of easily accessible data.*
- Further support has continued to be provided to Local Meeting treasurers, where needed. Good liaison has been maintained between our meetings with employees and our payroll provider.*
- The Area Meeting Treasurer and Assistant Area Meeting Treasurer work together to ensure that the management of our Area Meeting funds and our finances are well understood.*
- The Area Meeting Grants Policy continues to have a positive impact increasing the understanding of the process required for grant applications.*
- We continue to monitor the interest rates on our bank accounts and returns on our investments. We aim to balance optimal returns while maintaining an ethical stance both in terms of the banks we use and the funds we invest in*

Financial Management

Our Area Meeting Treasurer has undertaken the day to day management of the Area Meeting's finances and the five Area Meeting funds, which they carried out on behalf of the trustees. They kept the trustees regularly informed about their work and attended trustees meetings as needed, particularly for the preparation of the Area Meeting budget and collation of the annual accounts.

Specific aspects of our financial management have included:

- The use of the QuickBooks cloud accounting system, which has enabled an accurate oversight of our Area Meeting and Local Meeting finances throughout the year.*
- QuickBooks facilitates the production of frequent and detailed reports. It is also a useful tool for producing budgets and enables us to monitor trends, particularly as we now have seven years of easily accessible data.*
- Local and Area Meeting treasurers held ad-hoc online meetings to offer support and encouragement to each other, to share good practice and to prepare for the end of year collation of accounts.*
- Further support has continued to be provided to Local Meeting treasurers, where needed. Good liaison has been maintained between our meetings with employees and our payroll provider.*
- The Area Meeting Treasurer communicate to the local meeting treasurers, area business meeting, and trustees to ensure that the management of our Area Meeting funds and our finances are well understood.*
- The Area Meeting Grants Policy continues to have a positive impact increasing the understanding of the process required for grant applications.*
- We continue to monitor the interest rates on our bank accounts and returns on our investments. We aim to balance optimal returns while maintaining an ethical stance both in terms of the banks we use and the funds we invest in.*

Financial Review

The Area Meeting's total resources include cash, investment funds and some investment properties. This excludes the value of our meeting houses. In 2023 the total value increased by approximately 2.6% to £ 3,680,650 from £3,587,694 in 2022, of which 35.4% was held in unrestricted funds, 8% in restricted funds and 56.6% in endowed funds.

The level of contributions (donations) from individuals for our Area and Local Meetings showed an increase to £76,046 from £64,243 in 2022. This excludes £5,000 in 2023 and £22,000 received in unrestricted legacies in 2022.

Our COIF charity ethical investment fund units increased in value over the year from £677,636 to £744,193, this is still short of the £773,763 in 2021. This represents a decrease in unit value of 8.7% over 2021. The £21,287 (£21,114 in 2022 and £20,817 in 2021) received in dividends from these units provided income for our Education, Hardship and Property Maintenance Restricted Funds and our Unrestricted Building Maintenance Reserve Fund.

Room hire income at our six meeting houses continued to recover from the impact of the pandemic and increased to £57,219 (£15,431 in 2021 and £85,181 in 2019 pre-pandemic).

Expenditure on maintaining our meeting houses increased by 9.6% in 2023 compared to 2022.

Reserves Policy

Trustees split reserves into general reserves and building maintenance reserves. Local Meetings and Area Meeting are advised to maintain a general reserve equal to a year's anticipated expenditure.

Those Local Meetings responsible for maintaining property are advised to hold an additional building maintenance reserve of 2% of the insured value of the relevant properties.

To support Local Meetings, Area Meeting tries to maintain a central building maintenance fund of up to 7% of the insured value of all properties.

Trustees have reviewed our reserves. The Area Meeting general reserve at £35,893 represents around 24 months of normal expenditure. Trustees consider the reserve to be within our policy. The Area Meeting unrestricted building maintenance reserve at £192,591 represents around 2% of the insured value of our functional property. There is a further £49,293 in restricted building funds, which together represents 2.6% of insured value. This compares with a policy of holding 7%, however trustees recognise that the 7% is a long-term goal rather than an urgent target therefore they consider no action is required.

Statement of Trustees' Responsibilities

The trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' report and the financial statements in accordance with the United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice) and applicable law and regulations. The law applicable to charities requires the trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently; observe the methods and principles in the Charities SORP;*
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;*
- state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and*
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.*

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008, and the provisions of the constitution. The trustees are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charitable company's website. Legislation governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Approved by the trustees of the charity on 20/08/24 and signed on its behalf by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Roger Ibbett', with a stylized flourish at the end.

*Roger Ibbett
Clerk to Trustees*

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Independent Examiner's Report to the trustees of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting (the Charity) for the year ended 31 December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act').

I report in respect of my examination of the Charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

I have completed my examination. I confirm that no matters have come to my attention in connection with the examination giving me cause to believe that in any material respect:

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the Charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.



.....
John O'Brien MSc, FAIA, FCCA, FCIE, employee of Community Accounting Plus
Fellow of the Association of Charity Independent Examiners

Units 1 & 2 North West
41 Talbot Street
Nottingham
NG1 5GL

Date: 21/08/2024

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:						
Donations and legacies	2	77,195	10,370	-	87,565	82,676
Charitable activities	3	59,681	-	-	59,681	68,456
Other trading activities	4	55	-	-	55	102
Investment income	5	19,789	33,913	-	53,702	47,764
Total Income		156,720	44,283	-	201,003	198,998
Expenditure on:						
Raising funds	6	(2,552)	(9,057)	-	(11,609)	(19,076)
Charitable activities	7	(137,815)	(23,080)	-	(160,895)	(153,968)
Total Expenditure		(140,367)	(32,137)	-	(172,504)	(173,044)
Gains/losses on investment assets		13,190	-	53,367	66,557	(96,127)
Net movement in funds		29,543	12,146	53,367	95,056	(70,173)
Reconciliation of funds						
Total funds brought forward		698,723	157,964	1,117,347	1,974,034	2,044,207
Total funds carried forward 14		728,266	170,110	1,170,714	2,069,090	1,974,034

All of the charity's activities derive from continuing operations during the above two periods.

The funds breakdown for the period is shown in note 14.

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

These are the figures for the previous accounting period and are included for comparative purposes

	Note	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	Endowment £	Total 2022 £
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	2	70,857	11,819	-	82,676
Charitable activities	3	68,456	-	-	68,456
Other trading activities	4	102	-	-	102
Investment income	5	15,936	31,828	-	47,764
Total Income		155,351	43,647	-	198,998
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	6	(2,234)	(16,842)	-	(19,076)
Charitable activities	7	(131,725)	(22,243)	-	(153,968)
Total Expenditure		(133,959)	(39,085)	-	(173,044)
Gains/losses on investment assets		(19,050)	-	(77,077)	(96,127)
Net movement in funds		2,342	4,562	(77,077)	(70,173)
Reconciliation of funds					
Total funds brought forward		696,381	153,402	1,194,424	2,044,207
Total funds carried forward	14	698,723	157,964	1,117,347	1,974,034

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

(Registration number: 1134531)
Balance Sheet as at 31 December 2023

	Note	2023 £	2022 £
Fixed assets			
Investments	10	1,398,193	1,331,636
Current assets			
Debtors	11	8,306	5,836
Cash at bank and in hand	12	666,357	639,981
		674,663	645,817
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	13	(3,766)	(3,419)
Net current assets		670,897	642,398
Net assets		2,069,090	1,974,034
Funds of the charity:			
Endowment funds		1,170,714	1,117,347
Restricted income funds			
Restricted funds	14	170,110	157,964
Unrestricted income funds			
Unrestricted funds		728,266	698,723
Total funds	14	2,069,090	1,974,034

The financial statements were approved by the trustees, and authorised for issue on ...20/08/2024... and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Roger Ibbett
Trustee

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023

1 Accounting policies

Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the second edition of the Charities Statement of Recommended Practice issued in October 2019, the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102) and the Charities Act 2011.

Basis of preparation

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting meets the definition of a public benefit entity under FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

Exemption from preparing a cash flow statement

Under the exemption available to smaller charities the Board of Trustees has chosen not to include a Statement of Cash Flows within the financial statements.

Going concern

The financial statements have been prepared on a going concern basis.

The trustees assess whether the use of going concern is appropriate i.e. whether there are any material uncertainties related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the ability of the charity to continue as a going concern. The trustees make this assessment in respect of a period of one year from the date of approval of the financial statements.

Income and endowments

Voluntary income including donations, gifts, legacies and grants that provide core funding or are of a general nature is recognised when the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Donations and legacies

Donations and legacies are recognised on a receivable basis when receipt is probable and the amount can be reliably measured.

Expenditure

All expenditure is recognised once there is a legal or constructive obligation to that expenditure, it is probable settlement is required and the amount can be measured reliably. All costs are allocated to the applicable expenditure heading that aggregates similar costs to that category. Where costs cannot be directly attributed to particular headings they have been allocated on a basis consistent with the use of resources, with central staff costs allocated on the basis of time spent, and depreciation charges allocated on the portion of the asset's use. Other support costs are allocated based on the spread of staff costs.

Raising funds

These are costs incurred in attracting voluntary income, the management of investments and those incurred in trading activities that raise funds.

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Charitable activities

Charitable expenditure comprises those costs incurred by the charity in the delivery of its activities and services for its beneficiaries. It includes both costs that can be allocated directly to such activities and those costs of an indirect nature necessary to support them.

Taxation

The charity is considered to pass the tests set out in Paragraph 1 Schedule 6 of the Finance Act 2010 and therefore it meets the definition of a charitable company for UK corporation tax purposes. Accordingly, the charity is potentially exempt from taxation in respect of income or capital gains received within categories covered by Chapter 3 Part 11 of the Corporation Tax Act 2010 or Section 256 of the Taxation of Chargeable Gains Act 1992, to the extent that such income or gains are applied exclusively to charitable purposes.

Tangible fixed assets

Furniture and equipment.

These are written off at the time of purchase.

Functional properties.

These are integral to our charitable purposes and are unlikely to be sold. As they comprise the meeting houses and burial grounds, they are not included in the Balance Sheet and not depreciated. Details of these properties are set out below.

Investment properties

Investment property is carried at fair value, derived from the current market prices for comparable real estate determined annually by external valuers. The valuers use observable market prices, adjusted if necessary for any difference in the nature, location or condition of the specific asset. Changes in fair value are recognised in profit or loss. The market values of the investment properties were ascertained by professional valuations dated the 8th June 2015 for the three MR&A properties and 20th February 2020 for 25A Ashgate Road.

Fixed asset investments

Fixed asset investments, other than programme related investments, are included at market value at the balance sheet date. Realised gains and losses on investments are calculated as the difference between sales proceeds and their market value at the start of the year, or their subsequent cost, and are charged or credited to the Statement of Financial Activities in the period of disposal.

Unrealised gains and losses represent the movement in market values during the year and are credited or charged to the Statement of Financial Activities based on the market value at the year end.

Trade debtors

Trade debtors are amounts due from customers for merchandise sold or services performed in the ordinary course of business.

Trade debtors are recognised initially at the transaction price. They are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less provision for impairment. A provision for the impairment of debtors is established when there is objective evidence that the charity will not be able to collect all amounts due according to the original terms of the receivables.

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Cash and cash equivalents

Cash and cash equivalents comprise cash on hand and call deposits, and other short-term highly liquid investments that are readily convertible to a known amount of cash and are subject to an insignificant risk of change in value.

Trade creditors

Trade creditors are obligations to pay for goods or services that have been acquired in the ordinary course of business from suppliers. Accounts payable are classified as current liabilities if the charity does not have an unconditional right, at the end of the reporting period, to defer settlement of the creditor for at least twelve months after the reporting date. If there is an unconditional right to defer settlement for at least twelve months after the reporting date, they are presented as non-current liabilities.

Trade creditors are recognised initially at the transaction price and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

Borrowings

Interest-bearing borrowings are initially recorded at fair value, net of transaction costs. Interest-bearing borrowings are subsequently carried at amortised cost, with the difference between the proceeds, net of transaction costs, and the amount due on redemption being recognised as a charge to the over the period of the relevant borrowing.

Interest expense is recognised on the basis of the effective interest method and is included in interest payable and similar charges.

Borrowings are classified as current liabilities unless the has an unconditional right to defer settlement of the liability for at least twelve months after the reporting date.

Fund structure

Unrestricted income funds are general funds that are available for use at the trustees' discretion in furtherance of the objectives of the charity.

Restricted income funds are those donated for use in a particular area or for specific purposes, the use of which is restricted to that area or purpose.

Pensions and other post retirement obligations

The charity operates a defined contribution pension scheme for employees. The assets of the scheme are held separately from those of the charity. Pension costs charges in the Statement of Financial Activities represent the contributions payable by the charity during the year.

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

2 Income from donations and legacies

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Donations and legacies;				
Donations from individuals	77,195	10,370	87,565	82,676
	77,195	10,370	87,565	82,676

3 Income from charitable activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Meeting house hiring	57,172	57,172	45,865
Catering income	824	824	554
Feed in tariff (Nottingham)	260	260	235
Insurance claim	1,418	1,418	21,682
Events	7	7	-
Repairs	-	-	120
	59,681	59,681	68,456

4 Income from other trading activities

	Unrestricted funds General £	Total funds £	Total 2022 £
Local fundraising and street collection income	55	55	102
	55	55	102

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

5 Investment income

	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Interest receivable and similar income;				
Interest receivable on bank deposits	5,008	2,316	7,324	2,170
Other income from fixed asset investments	14,781	31,597	46,378	45,594
	19,789	33,913	53,702	47,764

6 Expenditure on raising funds

a) Investment management costs

Note	Unrestricted funds General £	Restricted funds £	Total 2023 £	Total 2022 £
Other investment management costs;				
Amounts payable to property managers	1,219	4,177	5,396	5,024
Property repairs	1,333	4,880	6,213	14,052
	2,552	9,057	11,609	19,076

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

7 Expenditure on charitable activities

	Unrestricted		Total 2023	Total 2022
	General £	Restricted £	£	£
Administration	4,120	-	4,120	3,158
Governance costs	5,930	-	5,930	3,934
Life of meeting costs	24,492	15,320	39,812	45,913
Maintaining meeting houses	103,273	7,760	111,033	100,963
	<u>137,815</u>	<u>23,080</u>	<u>160,895</u>	<u>153,968</u>

8 Staff costs

The aggregate payroll costs were as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Staff costs during the year were:		
Wages and salaries	36,731	43,440
Pension costs	<u>1,208</u>	<u>1,683</u>
	<u>37,939</u>	<u>45,123</u>

The monthly average number of persons (including senior management team) employed by the charity during the year was as follows:

	2023 No	2022 No
Staff	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>

4 (2022 - 4) of the above employees participated in the Defined Contribution Pension Schemes.

Contributions to the employee pension schemes for the year totalled £1,208 (2022 - £1,683).

No employee received emoluments of more than £60,000 during the year

9 Taxation

The charity is a registered charity and is therefore exempt from taxation.

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

10 Fixed asset investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Investment properties	654,000	654,000
Other investments	744,193	677,636
	<u>1,398,193</u>	<u>1,331,636</u>

Investment properties

	Investment properties £
Cost or Valuation	
At 1 January 2023	<u>654,000</u>
Provision	
At 31 December 2023	<u>-</u>
Net book value	
At 31 December 2023	<u>654,000</u>
At 31 December 2022	<u>654,000</u>

There has been no valuation of investment property by an independent valuer since June 2015.

Restricted Endowment Investment Properties:

These investment properties are administered by a professional estate and lettings agency and form part of the expendable endowment capital of the Matilda Rickman's Gift.

Brook Cottage £185,000

Chestnut Bank Cottage £125,000

Woodland Cottage £160,000

Unrestricted Investment Property:

Mansfield Bungalow £100,000

Permanent Endowment Investment Property:

25A Ashgate Road £84,000

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

Other investments

	Unlisted investments £	Total £
Cost or Valuation		
At 1 January 2023	677,636	677,636
Revaluation	66,557	66,557
At 31 December 2023	744,193	744,193
Net book value		
At 31 December 2023	744,193	744,193
At 31 December 2022	677,636	677,636

Ethical Investment Fund:

Investments are held in the COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund managed by CCLA Fund Managers Limited and are considered to be Alternative Investment Funds under the European Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive operative from July 2013.

11 Debtors

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade debtors	1,537	1,584
Prepayments	113	113
Other debtors	6,656	4,139
	8,306	5,836

12 Cash and cash equivalents

	2023 £	2022 £
Cash at bank	666,357	639,981

13 Creditors: amounts falling due within one year

	2023 £	2022 £
Trade creditors	78	289
Other creditors	3,688	3,130
	3,766	3,419

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

14 Funds

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Unrestricted funds						
<i>General</i>						
Area General Fund	27,376	13,617	(7,903)	1,400	-	34,490
<i>Designated</i>						
Area Building Maintenance	183,841	9,066	(10,660)	-	13,190	195,437
Area Property Fund	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Bakewell Meeting	49,997	24,283	(19,791)	(1,400)	-	53,089
Beeston Meeting	621	1,416	(1,680)	-	-	357
Chesterfield Meeting	51,789	39,436	(38,237)	-	-	52,988
Derby Meeting	83,512	23,183	(16,667)	-	-	90,028
Fritchley Meeting	6,817	1,705	(1,415)	-	-	7,107
Mansfield Meeting	14,009	7,674	(7,865)	-	-	13,818
Nottingham Meeting	156,902	35,928	(35,357)	-	-	157,473
Worksop Meeting	1,195	401	(792)	-	-	804
Bakewell Building Maintenance Fund	15,882	-	-	-	-	15,882
Derby Building Maintenance Fund	6,782	11	-	-	-	6,793
	671,347	143,103	(132,464)	(1,400)	13,190	693,776
Total unrestricted funds	698,723	156,720	(140,367)	-	13,190	728,266

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Restricted funds						
N&D Property Maintenance	51,758	5,295	(7,759)	-	-	49,294
N&D Poor Friends	44,035	6,297	(4,301)	-	-	46,031
MR&A Education	62,171	22,321	(9,707)	-	-	74,785
Acting as Agent (BYM)	-	10,370	(10,370)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	157,964	44,283	(32,137)	-	-	170,110
Endowment funds						
<i>Permanent</i>						
25A Ashgate Road	84,000	-	-	-	-	84,000
Monyash MH & BG Capital	129,938	-	-	-	12,762	142,700
	213,938	-	-	-	12,762	226,700
<i>Expendable</i>						
Ladybrook Poor Friends	6,211	-	-	-	610	6,821
MR&A Education	555,724	-	-	-	6,455	562,179
N&D Poor Friends	31,933	-	-	-	3,136	35,069
N&D Property Maintenance	2,459	-	-	-	242	2,701
Richardson Capital	306,020	-	-	-	30,057	336,077
Toadhole Property	1,062	-	-	-	105	1,167
	903,409	-	-	-	40,605	944,014
Total endowment funds	1,117,347	-	-	-	53,367	1,170,714

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2023 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2023 £
Total funds	1,974,034	201,003	(172,504)		- 66,557	2,069,090

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Unrestricted funds						
<i>General</i>						
Area General Fund	26,582	8,005	(8,584)	1,373	-	27,376
<i>Designated</i>						
Area Building Maintenance	204,329	8,562	(10,000)	-	(19,050)	183,841
Area Property Fund	100,000	-	-	-	-	100,000
Bakewell Meeting	22,374	40,766	(12,143)	(1,000)	-	49,997
Beeston Meeting	1,308	1,393	(1,880)	(200)	-	621
Chesterfield Meeting	43,348	40,968	(32,482)	(45)	-	51,789
Derby Meeting	75,284	22,751	(14,473)	(50)	-	83,512
Fritchley Meeting	7,001	1,260	(1,444)	-	-	6,817
Bingham Meeting	693	-	(115)	(578)	-	-
Mansfield Meeting	20,492	10,674	(17,657)	500	-	14,009
Nottingham Meeting	170,734	20,601	(34,433)	-	-	156,902
Worksop Meeting	1,575	368	(748)	-	-	1,195
Bakewell Building Maintenance Fund	15,882	-	-	-	-	15,882
Derby Building Maintenance Fund	6,779	3	-	-	-	6,782
	669,799	147,346	(125,375)	(1,373)	(19,050)	671,347
Total unrestricted funds	696,381	155,351	(133,959)	-	(19,050)	698,723

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Restricted funds						
N&D Property Maintenance	47,735	5,023	(1,000)	-	-	51,758
N&D Poor Friends	45,215	6,284	(7,464)	-	-	44,035
MR&A Education	60,452	20,771	(19,052)	-	-	62,171
Acting as Agent (BYM)	-	11,569	(11,569)	-	-	-
Total restricted funds	153,402	43,647	(39,085)	-	-	157,964
Endowment funds						
<i>Permanent</i>						
25A Ashgate Road	84,000	-	-	-	-	84,000
Monyash MH & BG Capital	148,370	-	-	-	(18,432)	129,938
	232,370	-	-	-	(18,432)	213,938
<i>Expendable</i>						
Ladybrook Poor Friends	7,092	-	-	-	(881)	6,211
MR&A Education	565,048	-	-	-	(9,324)	555,724
N&D Poor Friends	36,462	-	-	-	(4,529)	31,933
N&D Property Maintenance	2,808	-	-	-	(349)	2,459
Richardson Capital	349,431	-	-	-	(43,411)	306,020
Toadhole Property	1,213	-	-	-	(151)	1,062
	962,054	-	-	-	(58,645)	903,409
Total endowment funds	1,194,424	-	-	-	(77,077)	1,117,347

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

	Balance at 1 January 2022 £	Incoming resources £	Resources expended £	Transfers £	Other recognised gains/(losses) £	Balance at 31 December 2022 £
Total funds	2,044,207	198,998	(173,044)	-	(96,127)	1,974,034

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

The specific purposes for which the funds are to be applied are as follows:

Unrestricted funds:

The Area Meeting General Fund can be used for any of N&DAQM charitable purposes;

The Area Meeting Building Maintenance Fund is to help Local Meetings maintain and administer their Meeting Houses and can be used for any of N&DAQM charitable purposes;

Local Meeting funds can be used for any of N&DAQM charitable purposes in the area covered by each Local Meeting;

Both Derby and Bakewell Local Meetings have designated building funds to help maintain their Meeting Houses.

Restricted and Endowment funds:

The N&D Property Maintenance Fund is used for maintaining Meeting Houses and Burial Grounds;

The N&D fund for Poor Friends is used for the relief of Poor Friends and attenders of meetings linked to the Area Meeting;

The MR&A (Matilda Rickman & Ashover) Education fund is used for education in recognised Quaker educational institutions or the education of Friends in general;

The Acting as Agent (BYM) Fund covers funds, including gift aid, collected on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting;

The income from the Richardson Capital Fund can either be used for Poor Friends and attenders of meetings linked to the Area Meeting or maintaining Meeting Houses and Burial Grounds at trustees discretion. The income is split between the N&D Fund for Poor Friends and the N&D Property Maintenance Fund. (the 2022 basis was allocated 50:50 between each fund);

The income from the Ladybrook Fund is merged into the N&D fund for Poor Friends and can be used for the relief of Poor Friends and attenders of meetings linked to the Area Meeting;

The income from the Toadhole Property Fund is merged into the N&D Property Maintenance Fund and used for maintaining Meeting Houses and Burial Grounds.

Permanent Endowment funds:

25A Ashgate Road is let as a private dwelling. The property, now treated as an investment property, forms part of the endowed Local Meeting House. Income from the fund is applied to the Chesterfield Local Meeting;

The Monyash Meeting House and Burial Ground Capital Fund, was formed with the proceeds of the sale of this endowed property. Income from the fund is applied to the Area Meeting Building Maintenance Fund.

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

15 Analysis of net assets between funds

	Unrestricted		Endowment		2023
	General	Restricted	Permanent	Expendable	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	247,479	-	226,700	924,014	1,398,193
Current assets	483,205	171,458	-	20,000	674,663
Current liabilities	(2,418)	(1,348)	-	-	(3,766)
Total net assets	728,266	170,110	226,700	944,014	2,069,090
	Unrestricted		Endowment		2022
	General	Restricted	Permanent	Expendable	Total funds
	£	£	£	£	£
Fixed asset investments	234,289	-	213,939	883,408	1,331,636
Current assets	467,063	158,754	-	20,000	645,817
Current liabilities	(2,629)	(790)	-	-	(3,419)
Total net assets	698,723	157,964	213,939	903,408	1,974,034

Nottinghamshire & Derbyshire Area Quaker Meeting

Notes to the Financial Statements for the Year Ended 31 December 2023 (continued)

16 Related party transactions

There were no related party transactions in the year.

17 Functional Property

	Book Value £	Insured Value £
Property		
Derby Meeting House and Burial Ground (Unrestricted)	250,000	1,264,793
Fritchley Meeting House (Unrestricted)	50,000	321,674
Bakewell Meeting House and Burial Ground (Endowment)	340,000	1,450,819
Chesterfield Meeting House (Endowment)	340,000	1,450,819
Mansfield Meeting House (Endowment)	250,000	1,181,361
Nottingham Meeting House and Burial Ground (Endowment)	460,000	3,149,774
Toadhole Furnace Burial Ground (Endowment)	100	-
	<u>1,690,100</u>	<u>8,819,240</u>

18 3rd party funds

	Opening balances £	Incoming resources £	(Resources expended) £	Closing balances £
Acting as Agent	-	1,991	(1,991)	-
	<u>-</u>	<u>1,991</u>	<u>(1,991)</u>	<u>-</u>

19 Trustees remuneration and expenses

No trustees have received any reimbursed expenses or any other benefits from the charity during the year.

20 Independent examiner's fees

During the period, the fees payable (excluding VAT) to the charity's independent examiner Community Accounting Plus are analysed as follows:

	2023 £	2022 £
Independent examination	1,950	1,950
Other financial services	884	828
	<u>2,834</u>	<u>2,778</u>

Quaker Life additional information

Note 21

Additional Information Requested by Quaker Life Central Committee

Donations and Grants 2023

Donations and Grants to:	£
Individual friends	4950
BYM	13,600
Quaker Charities	8,750
Non-Quaker Charities	950

Acting as Agent 2023

Acting as Agent:	£
BYM contributions and Gift Aid	14,457
Quaker Charities (*)	273
Non-Quaker Charities (*)	7,553

() Some Acting as Agent Collections do not go through the LM accounts; hence these figures do not match the amounts in Note 18: 3rd party funds*