

WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING

England & Wales · Charity number 1175399

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2017-10-26

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Quaker Meeting House
Lower Park
Bewdley
Worcestershire
DY12 2DP

Phone 01299822489

Email L.S.PRESCOTT@BTINTERNET.COM

Website www.wsq.org.uk

Activities

Objects: THE OBJECT OF WORCESTERSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE AREA MEETING IS THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GENERAL RELIGIOUS AND CHARITABLE PURPOSES OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) IN BRITAIN IN THE AREA OF WORCESTERSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE AREA MEETING AND BEYOND.

Activities: The object of WORCESTERSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE Area Meeting is the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain in the area of WORCESTERSHIRE & SHROPSHIRE Area Meeting and beyond.

Classification

- **How:** Makes Grants To Individuals, Provides Other Finance, Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Disability, Religious Activities
- **Who:** The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Shropshire
- Telford & Wrekin
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£89,448	£97,800	-	-
2023-12-31	£135,661	£114,083	-	-
2022-12-31	£103,253	£89,471	-	-
2021-12-31	£52,715	£64,303	-	-
2020-12-31	£65,795	£90,945	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
JOAN MOWL		2025-09-20
Jane Spiers		2023-03-25
Lynda Sinclair Prescott		2024-01-01
Peter Bevan		2021-01-01
Rae Evans		2021-01-01
Roger Seal		2025-11-15

WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING

England & Wales - Charity number 1175399

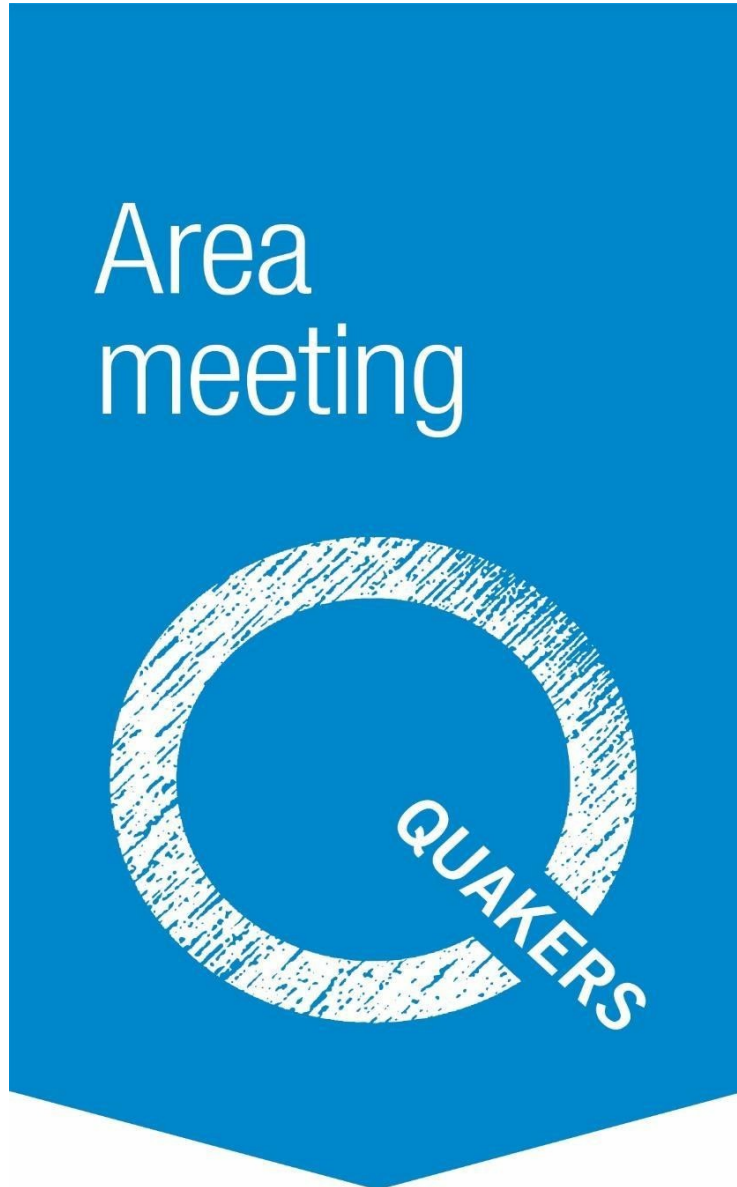
Accounts

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting

Charity Number 1175399

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, for the year ended 31 December 2024



This report was approved by the Trustees on 30 April 2025 and signed on their behalf by

Lynda Prescott, clerk of trustees

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1. Charity Information for reporting period ending 31 December

2024 Charity name and number

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting (charity number 1175399)

Address and contact details

Clerk to Trustees

Bewdley Quaker Meeting House

Lower Park

Bewdley DY12 2DP

Area Meeting website: wsq.org.uk

Trustees who served during 2024

Lynda Prescott (Clerk)

Jane Spiers (Treasurer)

Peter Bevan

Rae Evans

Marilyn Foxall

Paul Mountain

Clerk of trustees at report date

Lynda Prescott

Custodian Trustee

Friends Trusts Ltd., Registered Charity
237698 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1
2BJ

Bankers to the Area Meeting held accounts

Cooperative Bank

Independent Examiner

Russell Ball
D E Ball & Co. Ltd, 15 Bridge Road, Wellington,
Telford, Shropshire TF1 1 EB

2. Area Meeting structure and governance

2.1 Introduction

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting has been a registered charity since 2014, and has operated as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1175399) since January 1, 2018. The CIO is administered in accordance with its constitution and its affairs are governed by *Quaker Faith & Practice*, the book of discipline of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

2.2 Area Meeting's structure

Membership of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain is mainly through one of its constituent Area Meetings. Each Area Meeting consists of those who are recorded as being members, and Area Meeting in session is the charity's chief decision-making body. Meetings are conducted according to Quaker business method by a clerking team of Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Assistant Clerk for Membership.

Within Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting there are six Local Meetings: Bewdley, Church Stretton, Malvern, Shrewsbury, Telford and Worcester. Most members are affiliated to a Local Meeting, along with regular attenders who are not in membership. Attenders are also welcome to attend Area Meeting. Each Local Meeting usually appoints a clerk or clerking team, a treasurer, and makes other appointments necessary for the functioning of the meeting. During 2024 Malvern Local Meeting trialled a new organisational approach, involving all members and attenders in one of three 'teams'; this innovative approach is to be reviewed with a report to Area Meeting.

For roles within Area Meeting, the Nominations Committee brings forward the names of Friends willing to be considered, and appointments are made according to the discernment of Area Meeting in session. These include appointments of Elders and Pastoral Care Friends, who are attached to

Local Meetings but also function collectively as members of the Area Meeting Eldership and Pastoral Care Group.

Our Area Meeting's main formal link to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) is through our two representatives on Meeting for Sufferings, who bring regular reports to Area Meeting. Two members of Area Meeting are also appointed to the Quaker Life Representative Council, and we have regular contact with our Local Development Worker, who is part of BYM's Quaker Life team. In 2024 we also agreed to the new Memorandum of Understanding between the organisations that together comprise the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

2.3 Appointment and proceedings of trustees

All members of our Society share in trusteeship, but a small group of named trustees takes on particular responsibility within our Quaker community. Area Meeting trustees care for the assets of the charity, ensuring that they are properly used. More generally, trustees ensure that the Meeting is well run.

Trustees are appointed following nominations from the Nominations Committee. Appointments are usually for three years and re-appointment for a second triennium is common. One aim in the appointment of trustees is to include representatives from each Local Meeting on the trustees' body, but this is not always possible. During 2024 there were five 'continuing' trustees, and a new clerk of trustees was appointed from 1 January 2024. Together the six trustees were drawn from four of the Local Meetings, and we instituted a system of 'link' trustees with the two other Local Meetings. In common with all Area Meeting roles, the position of trustee carries no financial remuneration. The new clerk's induction included attending the trusteeship course offered by Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

Trustees meet at least four times a year, and conduct their meetings according to Quaker business method. In 2024, meetings were held in January, March, June, September and November. As part of their regular business, trustees keep Area Meeting's policies under review, and during the latter part of 2024 the Safeguarding Policy and Procedures were thoroughly revised, using BYM's model documents as starting points and involving extensive consultation with relevant role-holders across the Area Meeting. In other policy developments, our Area Meeting treasurer initiated discussions about a reserves policy with Local Meeting treasurers, and there were preliminary conversations about a lettings policy to provide a common framework for the four Local Meetings which hire out their premises. Other business included quinquennial reviews for our four Meeting Houses, and review of the tenancy agreement for our residential property in Worcester.

2023's initial work on merging Area Meeting's CIO with the historic Coalbrookdale charities (CC number 208401) was taken forward through correspondence with the Charity Commission, and the process continues into 2025. Meanwhile, the trustees of Worcester Friends Charity (CC number 201895), which owns the Meeting House at Worcester, formally requested a merger with the Area Meeting CIO, a larger but welcome project. Later in 2024, our neighbours in Banbury and Evesham Area Meeting proposed that Evesham Local Meeting be transferred to Worcestershire and

Shropshire, when its current Area Meeting is laid down. Area Meeting agreed in principle to this proposal, and we began exploring multiple aspects of the plan towards the end of 2024.

We have attempted to improve communications between the body of trustees and Area Meeting's membership by making the minutes of trustees' meetings available on the Area Meeting website intranet. Minutes are also sent to the clerks of Local Meetings, in accordance with our terms of reference, and besides frequent trustees' items on the Area Meeting agenda, we continue to present a short annual summary of trustees' activities.

2.4 Safeguarding

Local Meetings are asked to report annually on any safeguarding concerns at their meeting, and in 2024 there were none. The Local Meeting questionnaires also cover arrangements for work with children and young people, including role induction and DBS checks. Not all Local Meetings hold regular children's meetings, but in those that do DBS checks for volunteers were either current or in the process of being renewed. The new Area Meeting Safeguarding Policy and Procedures are designed to clarify and reinforce arrangements for these and other aspects of safeguarding. To this end, we began to make fuller use of the safeguarding advisory agency, 31:8. By the end of 2024 some 25 members and attenders had signed up for 31:8's online 'Gateway to Safeguarding' course, and the clerk of trustees attended a half-day course designed specifically for trustees.

2.5 Membership

There was a slight decrease in overall membership during the year, with a number of transfers in and out. There were two deaths, no new applications for membership, three terminations of membership and one resignation.

Tabular statement for 2024

	Total
Bewdley	27
Church Stretton	10
Malvern	28
Shrewsbury	33
Telford	33
Worcester	30
Unattached	3
Total	164

Also in 2024, 85 adult attenders were recorded as being attached to our Local Meetings, along with seven children.

3. Main activities in relation to the charity's purposes

3.1 Introduction

The Area Meeting's purposes are described in its governing document as: *'the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain in the area of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting and beyond.'* The following summary of how these purposes were pursued in 2024 is arranged according to the outline in *Quaker Faith & Practice*, 14.04.

3.2 Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings both in the area of Worcestershire and Shropshire and beyond

Meetings for worship are held each Sunday at all our Local Meetings, and at Telford, Worcester, and now Malvern, there are also midweek meetings for worship. Telford Meeting supports a monthly meeting for worship in Bridgnorth, and from March to October there are similar monthly opportunities at Dale House, Coalbrookdale. The *Advices and queries* that form the first part of *Quaker Faith & Practice* are read in our Local Meetings, whether regularly or occasionally, for challenge and inspiration as we live out our faith. All our meetings for worship are open to anyone, and publicly advertised as such. Newcomers are warmly welcomed, as are all visitors from outside our Area Meeting.

Some Local Meetings have continued to use zoom for 'blended' meetings, one positive legacy of the Covid pandemic that makes meetings more accessible, especially for Friends who are housebound. But as the restrictions of the pandemic have receded, Friends have welcomed opportunities to meet in person, often with coffee + discussion or shared lunches after Sunday meeting. In June Church Stretton Friends invited members and attenders from across Area Meeting to a picnic and outdoor activities in the Shropshire hills.

The children and young people in our Area Meeting, though few in number, are cherished and supported, whether at their Local Meetings, or at national Quaker events for young people. Our Advocate for Children and Young People keeps in contact with families across Area Meeting, and we have been pleased to see a new meeting for older children starting up once a month in Malvern.

3.3 Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

Our peace testimony is prominent in the ways we try to spread the message of Friends. These range from Malvern Meeting's on-going Active Peace Education project to public witnessing against the arms trade. In November Friends from across Area Meeting joined with activists from other organisations in a protest against the Specialist Defence and Security Convention, held at Telford's International Centre, by holding a meeting for worship outside the venue. November's Remembrance Day was another occasion when we made public our witness for peace, with Friends laying white poppy wreaths at several events around our two counties.

Our Local Meetings are well represented in various interfaith and ecumenical groupings, particularly the Churches Together network. In these ways we find common cause with other faith communities, whilst 'remaining faithful to Quaker insights' (*Advices and queries*, 6).

During 2024 we made more use of the Discovering Quakers website, and several of the enquiries generated this way led to Local Meetings attracting new attenders. We have become more alert to the needs of newcomers, not simply welcoming them but sharing with them our experience of the Quaker way. Discussions of topics ranging from our testimonies to Quaker business method have proved to be valuable not just for new attenders but for members and attenders of longer standing.

The life of our Quaker communities is sustained in a variety of ways, such as meetings for learning, discussion groups, or workshops such as Telford Meeting's day with the Kindlers on the subject of listening. Shrewsbury and Telford Meetings have also continued to support the spiritual practice of Experiment with Light. The 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox in 2024 stimulated more than usual interest in Quaker history, and in our Area Meeting, 'Fox400' was marked with a successful and widely-publicized celebration in Worcester. The event was well attended not just by Quakers but by members of the public, and the newly-elected MP for Worcester City also shared in the occasion.

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

We are very conscious of the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in this country, and have continued to support those forced to leave war-torn parts of the world to seek sanctuary here. Nearby Wolverhampton is a well-established City of Sanctuary and at our Area Meeting in July we were joined by three refugees from Wolverhampton who shared with us something of their experiences; first-hand encounters like this help to underpin whatever support we are able to offer, collectively or individually. For example, Bewdley Local Meeting worked with the Wyre Forest Refugee Support Group, including making regular monthly donations. And Telford Friends hosted a summer day out for refugee adults and children, visiting the play areas and gardens in Telford Town Park, and the zoo.

Another continuing commitment is Telford Local Meeting's support for the STAY charity, which provides homes for homeless young people and helps them to prepare to live independently; Telford Friends donate welcome packs of household essentials which the young people can take with them when they move on. Friends in several Local Meetings also support local food banks.

In other firmly-established work for the relief of suffering, three Area Meeting Friends are trustees of the William Gunn Charity (CC number 210214), which offers financial support to Quakers who are experiencing hardship, and one member of Area Meeting serves on the Quaker Peace and Social Witness Grants Group, where much of the grant-giving is to overseas projects supported by UK Quakers. Two members of Malvern Meeting are also active in prison work, mainly at national level; concern about the links between poverty and criminality is an aspect of this work.

3.5 Funding our concerns

Members of the Religious Society of Friends are asked to make financial contributions towards Quaker work via their Local Meeting. In many cases these contributions attract Gift Aid, and in 2024 we reviewed our Gift Aid arrangements in readiness for HMRC's changed rules for 2025. Legacies help to fund some Quaker work, such as Malvern's Active Peace Education project. Also, our Local Meetings in Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester are able to let out their meeting houses to organisations and groups whose activities align with Quaker concerns and values. Most Local Meetings also make special collections to support Quaker and non-Quaker charities.

Local Meetings and Area Meeting make contributions to Britain Yearly Meeting, to support its activities in the UK and internationally, and many Friends also make regular individual donations to BYM or other Quaker charities.

3.6 Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders, including assistance to those in need and for education

Area Meeting appoints Pastoral Care Friends from each Local Meeting. In some cases the role of Pastoral Care Friend is combined with that of Elder, and the practical arrangements for pastoral care vary from meeting to meeting. The common thread is that Pastoral Care Friends take responsibility for keeping in touch with individual members and attenders, especially those who may be vulnerable or undergoing difficult circumstances. Pastoral Care Friends support members and attenders with applications to Quaker charities for financial assistance when needed, and in 2024, as in previous years, Area Meeting supported Friends undertaking study with Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre and other educational providers.

3.7 Maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places of worship and from which to carry our witness into the world

Our meeting houses in Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester are well-maintained, with the support of local Premises Committees. Quinquennial surveys were carried out during 2024 and were satisfactory. Annual checks are made on health and safety measures, and the relevant policy is displayed for all users. Energy use is carefully monitored in all four meeting houses, as part of our commitment to sustainability (see section 3.9).

Quaker Faith & Practice 14.27 advises us to 'permit and encourage the use of meeting houses for educational and other suitable purposes which serve the needs of the people living in [our] neighbourhood', and income from lettings contributes substantially to the upkeep of our meeting houses. When letting out our premises, we take care, as noted earlier, that hirers' principles and practices are congruent with Quaker values. Quaker literature is on display and available for everyone who comes into our meeting houses, and external noticeboards also help to make our presence visible.

3.8 Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

During 2024 Area Meeting followed a pattern of meeting on alternate months, with meetings in January, March and November being held online via zoom. In May, July and September Area Meeting was hosted by Bewdley, Telford and Worcester Meetings in turn, with facilities for Friends to join online as well as attend in person. All Local Meetings were represented at each Area Meeting. Trustees brought to Area Meeting in session major items such as safeguarding, and presented a summary report of their business to Area Meeting in November.

All Local Meetings also hold their own Meetings for Worship for Business, and when occasion arises will send minutes to Area Meeting for wider consideration. There are several groupings of role-holders that cut across Local Meeting boundaries, such as the Eldership and Pastoral Care group, and from time to time all clerks or all treasurers meet together for mutual advice and support.

Some Worcester and Shropshire Friends attend Yearly Meeting, and offer reflections on their experience at a subsequent Area Meeting. Besides the opportunities for service on Quaker bodies mentioned in section 3.4, one Church Stretton has been playing a major role in supporting Area Meetings in various parts of the country that are under-going re-structuring of some kind. In October, several members of our Area Meeting attended the conference on the Future of British Quakerism organised by Quakers in Britain and Woodbrooke; feedback from this major conference will form part of our Area Meeting programme in 2025.

3.9 Sustainability

In keeping with our Quaker commitment to take action collectively to build a low-carbon, sustainable community, all our Local Meetings foreground sustainability and climate action as key concerns. Premises committees in our meeting houses monitor and maximise energy efficiency, and promote the use of environmentally-friendly cleaning products. At an individual level, members and attenders are encouraged to consider sustainability as an aspect of everyday life, across a range of activities from recycling to transport choices. Some Friends are active in enterprises outside our Quaker community: for example, one member volunteers at Worcester's zero-waste shop, and members of Bewdley Local Meeting help at the Repair Café, as part of the meeting's support for the Wyre Forest Green Alliance. Shrewsbury Local Meeting also held a Climate Fresk in February, as a way of promoting awareness of climate challenges and opportunities.

4 Activities undertaken for public benefit

Many of the activities described in this report contribute to public benefit, as part of our charitable purposes. In addition, the Area Meeting contributes to the work of the Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education in three local authorities, Shropshire, Telford and Worcestershire.

Overall, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and believe that the charity's objectives are for the benefit of the public.

5 Financial review

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024

	NOTES	1 2 3		4		Total 2024	Total 2023
		Unrestricted AM Central Funds	Unrestricted Local Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		
Incoming Resources							
Donations, legacies, and similar		3,994	38,207	42,201	285	42,486	99,184
Income from activities to generate funds		5,419	31,490	36,909		36,909	28,301
Investment income		140	5,044	5,184		5,184	8,151
Quaker Activities		0	0	0		0	0
Other Income		80	4,789	4,869		4,869	25
Total incoming resources		9,633	79,530	89,163	285	89,448	135,661
Resources expended							
Costs of Quaker activities		4,557	14,306	18,863		18,863	22,150
Grants and donations		2,000	14,209	16,209	489	16,698	23,172
Costs of generating funds		0	116	116		116	3,465
Support Costs		0	0	0		0	1,383
Governance		10,451	51,672	62,123		62,123	63,913
Total resources expended		17,008	80,303	97,311	489	97,800	114,083
Net incoming resources before transfers		-7,375	-773	-8,148	-204	-8,352	21,578
Transfers							
Transfers between funds (Quota)		6,920	-6,920			0	0
Other Transfers between Meetings							
Other transfers		4,235		4,235		4,235	0
Net incoming resources before revaluations		3,780	-7,693	-3,913	-204	-4,117	21,578
Gains (losses) on investments			0			0	-3,063
Net movement in funds		3,780	-7,693	-3,913	-204	-4,117	18,515
Revaluation of Property							
Total funds brought forward, 1 January	6	814,149	228,806	1,042,955	50,239	1,093,194	1,074,679
Prior year adjustment							
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		817,929	221,113	1,039,042	50,035	1,089,077	1,093,194
These balances are held as:							
Total fixed assets		800,000	46,964	846,964	50,000	896,964	912,964
Net current assets		17,929	174,149	192,078	35	192,113	180,230
Net assets		817,929	221,113	1,039,042	50,035	1,089,077	1,093,194
Acting as agent							
B/Fwd						82	176
In	7					5,752	4,579
Out	8					5,665	4,673
C/Fwd		0	0	0	0	169	82

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting						
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2024						
		Unrestricted Funds		Restricted		
		Central	Local	Special	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Notes	1	2 3	4		
Fixed assets						
Land and buildings	6	800,000		50,000	850,000	850,000
Fixtures and fittings					0	0
Investments			46,964		46,964	62,964
Total fixed assets		800,000	46,964	50,000	896,964	912,964
Current assets						
Debtors	7			0	0	0
Short term deposits		1,380	143,269		144,649	126,824
Cash at bank and in hand		16,549	30,880	35	47,464	53,488
Total current assets		17,929	174,149	35	192,113	180,312
Current liabilities						
Creditors within one year	8			0	0	82
Creditors after one year				0	0	0
Net current assets		17,929	174,149	35	192,113	180,230
Net assets		817,929	221,113	50,035	1,089,077	1,093,194

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting, Annual Report

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS					
Note 1. Unrestricted funds, the centrally managed accounts					
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2024					
	Notes	Unrestricted General	Designated Extension	Total 2024	Total 2023
Incoming Resources					
Donations, legacies, and similar		3,994		3,994	4,683
Income from activities to generate funds		5,419		5,419	959
Investment income		140		140	110
Quaker Activities				0	0
Other Income		80		80	10
Total Incoming Resources before transfers		9,633	0	9,633	5,762
Total Incoming Resources					
		9,633	0	9,633	5,762
Resources Expended					
Costs of Quaker activities					
Costs of Quaker activities	1	4,557		4,557	2,150
Grants and donations		2,000		2,000	5,919
Costs of generating funds				0	2,768
Support Costs	2a			0	1,383
Governance	2b	10,451		10,451	0
Total Resources Expended before transfers		17,008	0	17,008	12,220
Net incoming resources before transfers					
		-7,375	0	-7,375	-6,458
Transfers to and from Local Meetings					
Transfers between funds (Quota)		6,920		6,920	6,680
Other Transfers between Meetings				0	0
Other transfers		4,235		4,235	
Net incoming resources before revaluations		3,780	0	3,780	222
Revaluation of Property					
Gains (losses) on investments					
Net movement in funds		3,780	0	3,780	222
Total funds brought forward 1 January		804,293	9,856	814,149	813,927
Total funds carried forward 31 December		808,073	9,856	817,929	814,149
These funds were held as follows:					
Fixed Assets					
Property				800,000	800,000
Current Assets					
COIF deposit account				1,380	1,380
COOP current account				15,954	12,174
Lloyds TSB current account				595	595
				17,929	14,149
less Current Liabilities					
Creditor					
Net current assets				17,929	14,149
Total Assets				817,929	814,149

Note 2. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)									
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2024									
	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Worcester	Total 2024	Total 2023
Incoming Resources									
Donations, legacies, and similar		2,888	1,879	10,490	4,746	6,601	11,603	38,207	43,703
Income from activities to generate funds		6,818		4,315	10,262	10	10,085	31,490	27,342
Investment income		760	46	2,305	1,156	156	621	5,044	8,041
Quaker Activities								0	0
Other income		309		35	4,318		127	4,789	15
Total incoming resources		10,775	1,925	17,145	20,482	6,767	22,436	79,530	79,101
Resources expended									
Costs of Quaker activities		377	834	10,276	172	2,368	279	14,306	20,000
Grants and donations		3,300	20	3,644	489	4,746	2,010	14,209	17,253
Support costs		5,585	284	13,347	15,652		16,804	51,672	63,913
Costs of generating funds		45	45				26	116	22
Management and administration								0	0
Total resources expended		9,307	1,183	27,267	16,313	7,114	19,119	80,303	101,188
Net incoming resources before transfers		1,468	742	(10,122)	4,169	(347)	3,317	(773)	(22,087)
Transfers									
Transfers to AM (quota)		(1,120)	(440)	(1,160)	(1,600)	(1,360)	(1,240)	(6,920)	(6,680)
Transfers from Restricted Funds								0	0
Other transfers								0	0
Net incoming resources before revaluations		348	302	(11,282)	2,569	(1,707)	2,077	(7,693)	(28,767)
Gains (losses) on investments									
Net movement in funds		348	302	(11,282)	2,569	(1,707)	2,077	(7,693)	(31,830)
Total funds brought forward, 1 Jan		26,446	11,409	85,797	52,736	11,944	40,474	228,806	260,636
Prior year adjustment								0	0
Total funds carried forward, 31 Dec		26,794	11,711	74,515	55,305	10,237	42,551	221,113	228,806
These balances are held as:									
Total fixed assets				46,964				46,964	62,964
Net current assets		26,794	11,711	27,551	55,305	10,237	42,551	174,149	165,842
Net assets		26,794	11,711	74,515	55,305	10,237	42,551	221,113	228,806

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting, Annual Report

Note 3. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2024

	Notes								Total	
		Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Worcester	2024	2023	
Total fixed assets										
Land and Buildings								0	0	
Fixtures and Fittings								0	0	
Investments				46,964				46,964	62,964	
Total Fixed Assets		0	0	46,964	0	0	0	46,964	62,964	
Current Assets										
Debtors								0		
Short term deposits		22,822	10,850	26,532	42,690		40,375	143,269	125,444	
Cash at bank and in hand		3,972	861	1,019	12,615	10,237	2,176	30,880	40,480	
Total Current Assets		26,794	11,711	27,551	55,305	10,237	42,551	174,149	165,924	
Current Liabilities										
Creditors within one year								0	82	
Creditors after one year								0	0	
Total Current Liabilities		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	196	
Net Current Assets		26,794	11,711	27,551	55,305	10,237	42,551	174,149	165,842	
Net Assets		26,794	11,711	74,515	55,305	10,237	42,551	221,113	228,806	

Note 4. Restricted Funds					
Statement of Financial Affairs for the Year ended 31st December					
2024					
	Notes	Stay startup packs	Building	Total 2024	Total 2023
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income					
Donation		0		0	50,000
Contributions (and tax reclaimed)		285		285	798
Total voluntary income		285			50,798
Activities for generating funds					
Book and card sales					
Total from generating funds		0		0	0
Investment income					
Bank interest on deposits					
Total from investments		0		0	0
Other incoming resources					
Total other incoming resources		0		0	0
Total incoming resources		285		285	50,798
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Grants, subscriptions, donations					
... to other bodies					
Total costs of grants, etc		0	0	0	0
Costs of Quaker Activities		489	0	489	675
Costs of generating funds		0	0	0	0
Support costs					
Building improvements					
Bank charges					
Other support costs - professional fees					
Total direct support costs		0	0	0	0
Total resources expended		489	0	489	675
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		(204)		-204	50,123
Designated Transfers:					
From AM				0	0
To another fund of the managing LM				0	0
		0		0	0
Net incoming/outgoing resources after transfers		(204)		-204	50,123
Gains/losses on investments		0		0	0
Net movement in funds		(204)		-204	50,123
Total funds brought forward, 1 January		239	50,000	239	116
Prior Year's adjustment					
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		35	50,000	50,239	50,239
These funds are held as:					
Fixed assets: Building					
			50,000	50,000	50,000
Total fixed assets		0	50,000	50,000	50,000
Current assets: Debtors					
		0		0	0
Short-term deposits (e.g. COIF)					
Cash at bank and in hand		35		35	239
Total current assets		35	0	35	239
Less creditors					
Net current assets		35	0	35	239
Net assets		35	50,000	50,035	50,239

Note 5 - Acting as agent

	Central	Bewdley	Ch Stretton	Malvern	Shrewsbury	Telford	Worcester	Total 2024	Total 2023
Received									
Held over previously						82.00		82.00	176.00
Collections					4,025.00	541.00	1,186.00	5,752.00	4,579.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,025.00	623.00	1,186.00	5,834.00	4,755.00
Paid Over					4,025.00	604.00	1,036.00	5,665.00	4,673.00
Net Held	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	19.00	150.00	169.00	82.00

The table above shows money collected by local meetings Acting as Agents. Bewdley, Church Stretton and Worcester meetings keep any special collections completely separate from their normal finances and do not act as agents

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of
Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting for the year ended 31st December 2024.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 material 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 Trust 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 applicable 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.



Russell Ball

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

2nd July 2025

WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING

England & Wales - Charity number 1175399

Accounts

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting
Charity Number 1175399

Trustees Annual Report and Accounts, for the year ended 31 December 2023



This report was approved by the Trustees on21 September 2024, and signed on their behalf by

Lynda Prescott, clerk of trustees

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1. Charity Information for reporting period ending 31 December 2023

Charity name and number

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting (charity number 1175399)

Address and contact details

Clerk to Trustees
Bewdley Quaker Meeting House
Lower Park
Bewdley DY12 2DP

Area Meeting website: wsq.org.uk

Trustees who served during 2023

Marilyn Foxall (Clerk)
Rachel Swancott-Boon (until 28.01.23)
Jane Spiers (Treasurer) from 28.01.23
Peter Bevan
Rae Evans
Paul Mountain

Clerk of trustees at report date

Lynda Prescott (from 01.01.24)

Custodian Trustee

Friends Trusts Ltd., Registered Charity 237698
173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Bankers to the Area Meeting held accounts

Trustee Savings Bank (Church Stretton Branch)
Cooperative Bank

Independent Examiner

Russell Ball
D E Ball & Co. Ltd, 15 Bridge Road, Wellington,
Telford, Shropshire TF1 1 EB

2. Area Meeting structure and governance

2.1 Introduction

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting began operating as a registered charity from January 1, 2014, as Charity number 1155482. In 2017 it re-registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (number 1175399) and the new charity status came into effect operationally from January 1, 2018. The CIO is administered in accordance with its constitution and its affairs are governed by *Quaker Faith & Practice*, the book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting.

2.2 Area Meeting's structure

Membership of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain is through one of its constituent Area Meetings or a smaller number of General Meetings. Each Area Meeting consists of those who are recorded as being members, and Area Meeting in session is the charity's chief decision-making body. A clerking team of Clerk, Assistant Clerk and Assistant Clerk for Membership plans and conducts the meetings, which are held in a spirit of worship.

Most members of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting are attached to one of the six constituent Local Meetings: Bewdley, Church Stretton, Malvern, Shrewsbury, Telford and Worcester. Regular attenders who are not in membership also play a part in their local Quaker community and they are also welcome to attend Area Meeting. Each Local Meeting appoints a clerk or clerking team, a treasurer, and makes other appointments necessary for the functioning of the meeting.

For roles within Area Meeting, the Nominations Committee brings forward the names of Friends willing to be considered, and appointments are made according to the discernment of Area Meeting in session. These include appointments of Elders and Pastoral Care Friends, who are attached to Local Meetings but also function collectively as members of the Area Meeting Eldership and Pastoral Care Group. Other roles include two Safeguarding Co-ordinators who liaise with named individuals in

each Local Meeting responsible for overseeing implementation of the Area Meeting Safeguarding Policy. There is also a website group that oversees the online presence of Area and Local Meetings.

Area Meeting appoints a Registering Officer and Deputy Registering Officer, who during 2023 conducted one meeting for worship for the solemnization of marriage.

The main formal link to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) is through Area Meeting representation on Meeting for Sufferings. Our representative appointed in 2021 continued in this role throughout 2023, but there was a change of 'alternate' representative during the second half of the year. Two members of Area Meeting are also appointed to the Quaker Life Representative Council. They, and our Meeting for Sufferings representatives, bring regular reports to Area Meeting.

Our links to BYM were consolidated during 2023 when Hilary Topp, the Local Development Worker for five Area Meetings in the West Midlands and North West England, took up her post. We were pleased to welcome Hilary, who is part of BYM's Quaker Life team, to our Area Meeting in January 2023, and to subsequent meetings around the Area during the course of the year.

2.3 Appointment and proceedings of trustees

All members of our Society share in trusteeship, but for practical purposes a small group of named trustees manages the finances and property of Area Meeting, and more generally ensures that the Meeting is well run.

As with other Area Meeting roles, trustees are appointed following nominations from the Nominations Committee. Appointments are usually for three years and re-appointment for a second triennium is common. One aim in the appointment of trustees is to include representatives from each Local Meeting on the trustees' body, but this is not always possible. During 2023 four trustees were 'continuing', there was one change reflecting the departure of our Area Meeting Treasurer and the appointment of a new one, and an additional appointment to take effect from 1 January 2024, of a new clerk of trustees. New trustees are supported to attend training, such as courses offered by Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. As with all Area Meeting roles, the position of trustee carries no financial remuneration.

Trustees meet at least four times a year, and conduct their meetings according to Quaker business method. During 2023 meetings were held on 10 January, 11 April, 4 July, 8 August and 24 October. Matters considered included: the regular review of policies, with a particular focus on safeguarding; record-keeping; inclusivity training; and the gift to Area Meeting by one of its members of a residential property in Worcester. Transfer of the property's ownership was completed in October 2023, and a letting agent was contracted to manage the property.

The Area Meeting trustees also act as trustees of a historic charity, 'Society of Friends: Charities held in connexion with the Worcester and Shropshire Monthly Meeting' (CC number 208401), known as the Coalbrookdale Charity. During 2023 discussions began about the possible merging of the Coalbrookdale Charity with the Area Meeting CIO.

2.4 Membership

There was very little change in overall membership during the year, with a number of transfers in and out. There were no deaths, no new applications for membership, and one resignation of membership.

Tabular statement for 2023

	Total
Bewdley	28
Church Stretton	11
Malvern	29
Shrewsbury	35
Telford	34
Worcester	31
Unattached	3
Total	171

Also in 2023, 97 adult attenders were recorded as being attached to our Local Meetings, along with eight children.

3. Main activities in relation to the charity's purposes

3.1 Introduction

The Area Meeting's purposes are described as the charity's 'object' in its governing document, namely, *'the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain in the area of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting and beyond.'* To that end, the CIO's income and property are used to further the Area Meeting's object by work such as:

3.2 Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings both in the area of Worcestershire and Shropshire and beyond

Meetings for worship are held each Sunday at all our Local Meetings, and at Telford and Worcester there are also midweek meetings for worship. Telford Meeting supports a worshipping group that meets once a month in Bridgnorth, and from March to October there are monthly meetings at Dale House, Coalbrookdale. All our meetings for worship are open to anyone, and publicly advertised as such.

Some of our Local Meetings continued during 2023 to use zoom for 'blended' meetings, but generally, as Covid risks have lessened, more Friends have felt confident about meeting in person. Another promising sign is that several Local Meetings report having welcomed new attenders during the year. Meanwhile, Area Meeting's online midweek meeting for worship, that had continued throughout the pandemic, was laid down in March.

As well as worshipping together, Local Meetings have promoted various activities to strengthen their Quaker communities. Occasional bring and share meals following Sunday meeting, or gatherings at the homes of Friends, have provided opportunities for conversation and fellowship, as have celebrations on specific occasions (for example, a Shrewsbury member's 100th birthday). Worcester Friends have held sessions on getting to know each other spiritually, and reading groups are active in several Local Meetings.

At Malvern Meeting, where the clerking team were due to end their period of service, and no new nominations were forthcoming, the whole Meeting went through an extended period of reflection during 2023 to find a way forward. Besides leading to a constructive plan for 2024, Malvern Friends found that the process significantly strengthened the life of the Meeting.

Although there are relatively few children in our Area Meeting, our Advocate for Children and Young People keeps in contact with families across Area Meeting. At Church Stretton, our smallest meeting, the eleven members greatly value having two young attenders whose presence at monthly children's meeting challenges and stimulates them. Malvern Friends also host a monthly children's meeting, and Telford's young people have been involved in a Quaker exhibition for outreach.

One innovation in 2023 was the inclusion of two 'quiet days' in our Area Meeting schedule. The first, held at Church Stretton in June, was led by an external facilitator and focused on the use of labyrinths for walking meditation. The second, hosted by Malvern Meeting in December, drew on the work of the American Trappist monk and social activist Thomas Merton. Both events proved popular with attenders as well as members, and provided fresh opportunities for spiritual nourishment for Friends from across Area Meeting.

3.3 Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

Our peace testimony is prominent in the ways we try to spread the message of Friends. One long-running example is Malvern Meeting's Active Peace Education, a legacy-funded project that in 2023 ran 24 courses on seven different areas of peace education in fourteen different schools.

A very different aspect of our witness for peace came to fore in November, when an arms fair, the Specialist Defence and Security Convention, was held at Telford's International Centre. With support from Ellis Brooks, BYM's Peace Education Co-ordinator, who spoke at our Area Meeting in September, a day of action by Quakers and other campaigners was held on 2 November outside the venue. As part of the day's activities Telford Friends hosted a meeting for worship to

support the protest; this was attended by over thirty Friends from across the region, then at lunchtime the meeting moved to near the International Centre, where numbers swelled even more. Organisers of the arms fair plan to make it an annual event, so this particular witness for peace is likely to be on-going.

In other public activities during 2023, Worcester Friends supported two ecumenical vigils for peace, and in several places across our area white poppy wreaths were laid as part of Remembrance Day events.

The message of Friends has also been spread through activities such as Church Stretton Friends' monthly contributions to a local magazine, Focus, and Telford Friends' Quaker stall at a 'Love Telford' event in March. Several members of Worcester Meeting have been involved with the Discovering Quakers website.

2023 was a busy year in terms of interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society of Friends. Initiatives within Local Meetings included sessions on Early Friends at Bewdley and an event about *Advices and queries* at Malvern. Worcester and Telford Local Meetings organised regular discussions of sections of *Quaker Faith & Practice*, and Shrewsbury and Telford Meetings continued to support Experiment with Light groups.

Alongside these activities in Local Meetings, Area Meeting co-ordinated our examination of several significant issues in Quaker thought and practice. The first reflected BYM's focus on the Religious Society of Friends as an actively anti-racist faith community. The small 'exploring group' set up in autumn 2022 to take forward our response to the 2022 Yearly Meeting Epistle decided to concentrate its efforts on how we might educate ourselves about being anti-racist and expand our understanding of the issues relating to racism and anti-racism. The outcome was a resource pack with an annotated list of some 35 books, articles, videos and podcasts, and questions for discussion. The pack was circulated at the end of January 2023 to all members and attenders, for group or individual use, and our Local Development Worker subsequently made it available to other Area Meetings, too.

Another topic continued from 2022 concerned planned revisions to *Quaker Faith & Practice*. In November 2022 Area Meeting had hosted an online session with members of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee. This prepared us for discussion in Spring 2023 of the text of two draft sections, on Nominations and Marriage. In April an open meeting was held on zoom to reflect on these samples, and a summary from that meeting was circulated to Local Meetings. Our collective feedback, from attenders as well as members, was agreed at Area Meeting in May and sent on to the Revision Committee.

During 2023 we were also asked to consider the topic of membership. Questions posed by Meeting for Sufferings were circulated to Local Meetings and responses were collated by the Area Meeting clerk. The summary of our views formed the basis for a minute at our July meeting that was then forwarded to Meeting for Sufferings.

Quaker commitment to truth and integrity was a prominent theme of Yearly Meeting 2023, and will be developed further in 2024. To further our understanding of this topic, we invited Jan Arriens, a member of the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group, to speak at our Area Meeting in September. He described the group's evolution and current plans, and we were able to discuss the centrality of truth and integrity to Quaker concerns, and its importance in public life.

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

Much Quaker service is performed by individuals, acting as their conscience directs them and as their circumstances permit. However, there are some long-standing projects that Worcestershire and Shropshire Friends support collectively. One of these is the STAY charity in Telford which provides homes for homeless young people and helps them to prepare to live independently; Telford Friends donate welcome packs of household essentials which the young people can take with them when they move on. Friends in several Local Meetings also support local food banks, and some are involved with other organisations such as Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council which delivers weekly food boxes where needed.

The distinction between 'home and abroad' tends to be increasingly blurred as the needs of refugees and asylum seekers become more widespread and more urgent. Friends across Worcestershire and Shropshire have for a number of years been helping to support refugees, especially from Syria and Ukraine, but also asylum seekers from other war-torn parts of the world. As well as financial support, the work takes various practical forms, such as providing English lessons, and is often undertaken in conjunction with local refugee support groups. At the start of 2023 Area Meeting collected information from all our Local Meetings about their involvement with asylum seekers and refugees, and used this as a springboard for an extended session at our March Area Meeting in which five Friends from different parts of our area gave their personal perspectives on being involved with this work. Sharing these experiences proved to be moving as well as informative, and we recorded in our Area Meeting minute the two-way nature of the relationships thus formed: 'Those seeking asylum and sanctuary in the UK have much to teach us about commitment, generosity, resilience, quiet courage and the capacity to forgive, and in return, we can offer our time, money, skills and friendship.'

In other long-established work for the relief of suffering, three Area Meeting Friends are trustees of the William Gunn Charity (CC number 210214), which offers financial support to Quakers who are experiencing hardship, and one member of Area Meeting serves on the Quaker Peace and Social Witness Grants Group, where much of the grant-giving is to overseas projects supported by UK Quakers. Two members of Malvern Meeting are also active in prison work, mainly at national level; concern about the links between poverty and criminality is an aspect of this work.

3.5 Funding our concerns

Members of the Religious Society of Friends are asked to make financial contributions towards Quaker work via their Local Meeting. In many cases these contributions attract Gift Aid. Legacies help to fund some Quaker work, such as Malvern's Active Peace Education project, mentioned

above. Also, our Local Meetings in Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester are able to let out their meeting houses to organisations and groups whose activities align with Quaker concerns and values. Sometimes the Local Meeting may offer free use of its premises to organisations it especially wishes to support. Most Local Meetings also make special collections to support Quaker and non-Quaker charities.

In 2023 some of the non-Quaker concerns which Friends supported financially included help for asylum seekers and refugees, support for homeless people, foodbanks, and mental health charities. Local Meetings and Area Meeting made donations to Britain Yearly Meeting, to support its activities in the UK and internationally. Other Quaker charities supported by Local Meetings in 2023 included Quaker Social Action and Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. Many Friends also make regular individual donations to BYM or other Quaker charities.

3.6 Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders, including assistance to those in need and for education

Area Meeting appoints Pastoral Care Friends from each Local Meeting. However, arrangements for pastoral care of individual members and attenders vary from meeting to meeting. In some cases the role of Pastoral Care Friend is combined with that of Elder. In our smallest meeting, Church Stretton, members undertake pastoral care collectively, while in Malvern small groups of five to six people are linked with a Pastoral Care Friend and with each other. Pastoral care includes creating opportunities for social contacts, and as we began to emerge from the restrictions of the Covid-19 pandemic several meetings reviewed the balance between joining together in-person or online, with a view to strengthening their sense of community.

Overall, pastoral care involves keeping in touch with all members and attenders, especially those who may be vulnerable or undergoing difficult circumstances, so Pastoral Care Friends support Friends with applications to Quaker charities for financial assistance when needed. In 2023 Area Meeting paid for four young people to attend residential summer school and Shrewsbury Local Meeting also supported a member completing (successfully) a PhD on Quaker history.

3.7 Maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places of worship and from which to carry our witness into the world

We have meeting houses in Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester, all of which are well-maintained, with the support of local Premises Committees. Annual checks are made on health and safety measures, and the relevant policy is displayed for all users. During 2023 further energy-saving steps were implemented at all four meeting houses. Lettings have recovered, to various degrees, after the enforced closures during the Covid-19 pandemic, and a small group of Friends is actively promoting Worcester meeting house as a venue for hire, helped by the presence of a supportive Resident Friend who is able to welcome users. Quaker literature is on display at all the meeting houses, and Shrewsbury Local Meeting has recently installed a new external noticeboard with more visible displays of Quaker posters.

Church Stretton Friends rent appropriate rooms for their Sunday meetings for worship, and Telford Friends hold a licence to worship in a designated room in a community building, Meeting Point House. However, there is also regular scope in this area for outreach via Dale House, the former home of the Quaker Darby family, and now part of the Ironbridge Gorge Museums. One Friend works as a volunteer there, and monthly meetings for worship are held at Dale House during the summer.

3.8 Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Area Meeting was held six times during 2023. The meetings in January, March and November, were held online via zoom. In May, July and September Area Meeting was hosted by Worcester, Telford and Shrewsbury Meetings in turn, with facilities for Friends to join online as well as attend in person. At five out of six Area Meetings all Local Meetings were represented. The business of Area Meeting tends to be divided more or less equally between 'inward-facing' topics that keep the Area Meeting functioning, such as membership matters and appointments, and more 'outward-facing' topics such as those described in sections 3.3. and 3.4 of this report.

All Local Meetings also hold their own Meetings for Worship for Business, and when occasion arises will send minutes to Area Meeting for wider consideration. There are several groupings of role-holders that cut across Local Meeting boundaries, such as the Eldership and Pastoral Care group, and from time to time all clerks or all treasurers meet together for mutual advice and support.

As noted at the end of section 3.4, some Worcester and Shropshire Friends are involved in various BYM committees, and others undertake support roles at Yearly Meeting. One Church Stretton Friend is part of the group set up to review Yearly Meetings, Yearly Meeting Gatherings, and Meeting for Sufferings. She has also continued to work with Friends from Wales and the Marches to form a new single charity, and is involved in a similar project in Scotland. In October she invited Worcestershire and Shropshire Friends to an online session about 'How some Area Meetings are getting together', so we were updated about developments across the country that are beginning to change the shape of BYM.

4 Activities undertaken for public benefit

Many of the activities described in sections 3.2 to 3.4 of this report contribute to public benefit, as part of our charitable purposes. In addition, the Area Meeting contributes to the work of the Standing Advisory Councils on Religious Education in three local authorities, Shropshire, Telford and Worcestershire.

Overall, the Trustees have considered the Charity Commission's public benefit guidance and believe that the charity's objectives are for the benefit of the public.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

Independent examiner's report to the trustees of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting for the year ended 31st December 2023.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the charity trustees of the Trust 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 Trust's accounts carried out under Section 145 of the Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all 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 material 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 Trust 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 applicable 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.

Russell Ball

D E Ball & Co Limited
Chartered Accountants
15 Bridge Road
Wellington
Telford
Shropshire
TF1 1EB

11th July 2024

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

	NOTES	1	2 & 3	4		Total 2023	Total 2022
		Unrestricted AM Central Funds	Unrestricted Local Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		
Incoming Resources							
Donations, legacies, and similar		4,683	43,703	48,386	50,798	99,184	43,923
Income from activities to generate funds		959	27,342	28,301		28,301	33,213
Investment income		110	8,041	8,151		8,151	3,523
Quaker Activities		0	0	0		0	1,060
Other Income		10	15	25		25	21,534
Total incoming resources		5,762	79,101	84,863	50,798	135,661	103,253
Resources expended							
Costs of Quaker activities		2,150	20,000	22,150		22,150	28,880
Grants and donations		5,919	17,253	23,172		23,172	15,729
Costs of generating funds		2,768	22	2,790	675	3,465	14,826
Support Costs		1,383	63,913	65,296		65,296	4,654
Governance		0	0	0		0	25,353
Total resources expended		12,220	101,188	113,408	675	114,083	89,471
Net incoming resources before transfers		-6,458	-22,087	-28,545	50,123	21,578	13,782
Transfers							
Transfers between funds (Quota)		6,680	-6,680			0	0
Other Transfers between Meetings							
Other transfers						0	-8
Net incoming resources before revaluations		222	-28,767	-28,545	50,123	21,578	13,774
Gains (losses) on investments			-3,063			-3,063	-10,374
Net movement in funds		222	-31,830	-31,608	50,123	18,515	3,400
Revaluation of Property							
Total funds brought forward, 1 January		813,927	260,636	1,074,563	116	1,074,679	1,071,278
Prior year adjustment							
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		814,149	228,806	1,042,955	50,239	1,093,194	1,074,678
These balances are held as:							
Total fixed assets		800,000	62,964	862,964	50,000	912,964	874,936
Net current assets		14,149	165,842	179,991	239	180,230	199,742
Net assets		814,149	228,806	1,042,955	50,239	1,093,194	1,074,679
Acting as agent	5						
B/Fwd			176	176		176	839
In			4,579	4,579		4,579	4,487
Out			4,673	4,673		4,673	5,149
C/Fwd		0	82	82	0	82	176

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total 2023	Total 2022
		Central	Local	Special		
		1	2 & 3	4		
Fixed assets						
Land and buildings		800,000		50,000	850,000	800,000
Fixtures and fittings					0	0
Investments			62,964		62,964	74,936
Total fixed assets		800,000	62,964	50,000	912,964	874,936
Current assets						
Debtors			0		0	3,380
Short term deposits		1,380	125,444		126,824	139,206
Cash at bank and in hand		12,769	40,480	239	53,488	57,352
Total current assets		14,149	165,924	239	180,312	199,938
Current liabilities						
Creditors within one year			82		82	196
Creditors after one year			0		0	0
Net current assets		14,149	165,842	239	180,230	199,742
Net assets		814,149	228,806	50,239	1,093,194	1,074,678

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1. Unrestricted funds, the centrally managed accounts

Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended December 31 2023

	Notes	Unrestricted General	Designated Extension	Total 2023	Total 2022
Incoming Resources					
Donations, legacies, and similar		150	4,533	4,683	0
Income from activities to generate funds		959		959	
Investment income		110		110	21
Quaker Activities				0	
Other Income		10		10	
Total Incoming Resources before transfers		1,229	4,533	5,762	21
Total Incoming Resources		1,229	4,533	5,762	21
Resources Expended					
Costs of Quaker activities					
Costs of Quaker activities		810	1,340	2,150	1,702
Grants and donations		5,919		5,919	129
Costs of generating funds		2,768		2,768	
Support Costs		1,383		1,383	
Governance				0	2,999
Total Resources Expended before transfers		10,880	1,340	12,220	4,830
Net incoming resources before transfers		-9,651	3,193	-6,458	-4,809
Transfers to and from Local Meetings					
Transfers between funds (Quota)		6,680		6,680	6,960
Other Transfers between Meetings				0	200
Other transfers					
Net incoming resources before revaluations		-2,971	3,193	222	2,351
Revaluation of Property					
Gains (losses) on investments					
Net movement in funds		-2,971	3,193	222	2,351
Total funds brought forward 1 January		807,264	6,663	813,927	811,576
Total funds carried forward 31 December		804,293	9,856	814,149	813,927
These funds were held as follows:					
Fixed Assets					
Property				800,000	800,000
Current Assets					
COIF deposit account				1,380	1,380
COOP current account				12,174	0
Lloyds TSB current account				595	12,547
				14,149	13,927
less Current Liabilities					
Creditor					
Net current assets				14,149	13,927
Total Assets				814,149	813,927

Note 2. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2023

	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Worcester	Total	Total
								2023	2022
Incoming Resources									
Donations, legacies, and similar		2,982	1,010	18,253	8,342	5,528	7,588	43,703	43,310
Income from activities to generate funds		7,137		5,250	5,574		9,381	27,342	33,213
Investment income		583		4,709	1,405	128	1,216	8,041	3,502
Quaker Activities								0	1,060
Other income							15	15	21,534
Total incoming resources		10,702	1,010	28,212	15,321	5,656	18,200	79,101	102,619
Resources expended									
Costs of Quaker activities		375	950	11,843	1,008	5,396	428	20,000	27,178
Grants and donations		3,300	20	5,850	5,427	201	2,455	17,253	15,600
Support costs		11,808	504	13,889	21,424		16,288	63,913	25,383
Costs of generating funds							22	22	13,876
Management and administration							0	0	1,655
Total resources expended		15,483	1,474	31,582	27,859	5,597	19,193	101,188	83,691
Net incoming resources before transfers		-4,781	-464	-3,370	-12,538	59	-993	-22,087	18,928
Transfers									
Transfers to AM (quota)		-1,160	-440	-1,120	-1,360	-1,240	-1,360	-6,680	-6,960
Transfers from Restricted Funds								0	-8
Other transfers								0	
Net incoming resources before revaluations		-5,941	-904	-4,490	-13,898	-1,181	-2,353	-28,767	11,960
Gains (losses) on investments				-4,082			1,019	-3,063	-10,374
Net movement in funds		-5,941	-904	-8,572	-13,898	-1,181	-1,334	-31,830	1,585
Total funds brought forward, 1 Jan		32,387	12,313	94,369	66,634	13,125	41,808	260,636	259,049
Prior year adjustment								0	0
Total funds carried forward, 31 Dec		26,446	11,409	85,797	52,736	11,944	40,474	228,806	260,635
These balances are held as:									
Total fixed assets				62,964				62,964	74,936
Net current assets		26,446	11,409	22,833	52,736	11,944	40,474	165,842	185,698
Net assets		26,446	11,409	85,797	52,736	11,944	40,474	228,806	260,635

Note 3. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2023

							Total	Total	
	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrewsbury	Telford	Worcester	2023	2022
Total fixed assets									
Land and Buildings								0	0
Fixtures and Fittings								0	0
Investments				62,964				62,964	74,936
Total Fixed Assets		0	0	62,964	0	0	0	62,964	74,936
Current Assets									
Debtors								0	3,380
Short term deposits		23,750		21,886	41,554		38,254	125,444	137,826
Cash at bank and in hand		2,696	11,409	947	11,182	12,026	2,220	40,480	44,689
Total Current Assets		26,446	11,409	22,833	52,736	12,026	40,474	165,924	185,895
Current Liabilities									
Creditors within one year						82		82	196
Creditors after one year								0	0
Total Current Liabilities		0	0	0	0	82	0	82	196
Net Current Assets		26,446	11,409	22,833	52,736	11,944	40,474	165,842	185,699
Net Assets		26,446	11,409	85,797	52,736	11,944	40,474	228,806	260,635

Note 4. Restricted Funds

Statement of Financial Affairs for the Year ended 31st

December 2023

	Notes	Stay startup packs	Building	Total 2023	Total 2022
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Voluntary Income					
Donation			50,000	50,000	0
Contributions (and tax reclaimed)		798		798	413
Total voluntary income		798	50,000	50,798	413
Activities for generating funds					
Book and card sales					
Total from generating funds		0		0	0
Investment income					
Bank interest on deposits					
Total from investments		0		0	0
Other incoming resources					
Total other incoming resources		0		0	0
Total incoming resources		798	50,000	798	413
RESOURCES EXPENDED					
Grants, subscriptions, donations					
... to other bodies					
Total costs of grants, etc		0	0	0	0
Costs of Quaker Activities					
Costs of generating funds		675	0	675	950
Support costs		0	0	0	0
Building improvements					
Bank charges					
Other support costs - professional fees					
Total direct support costs		0	0	0	0
Total resources expended		675	0	675	950
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		123	50,000	123	(537)
Designated Transfers:					
From AM				0	0
To another fund of the managing LM				0	0
		0		0	0
Net incoming/outgoing resources after transfers		123	50,000	123	(537)
Gains/losses on investments		0		0	0
Net movement in funds		123	50,000	123	(537)
Total funds brought forward, 1 January		116	0	116	653
Prior Year's adjustment					
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		239	50,000	50,239	116
These funds are held as:					
Fixed assets: Building					
			50,000	50,000	
Total fixed assets		0	50,000	50,000	0
Current assets: Debtors					
		0		0	0
Short-term deposits (e.g. COIF)					
Cash at bank and in hand		239		239	116
Total current assets		239	0	239	116
Less creditors					
Net current assets		239	0	239	116
Net assets		239	50,000	50,239	116

Note 5 - Acting as agent

	Central	Bewdley	Ch Stretton	Malvern	Shrewsbury	Telford	Worcester	Total 2023	Total 2022
Received									
Held over previously					156.00	20.00		176.00	838.79
Collections					4,031.00	153.00	395.00	4,579.00	4,486.63
	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	4,187.00	173.00	395.00	4,755.00	5,325.42
Paid Over					4,187.00	91.00	395.00	4,673.00	5,149.42
Net Held	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	82.00	0.00	82.00	176.00

The table above shows money collected by local meetings Acting as Agents. Bewdley, Church Stretton and Worcester meetings keep any special collections completely separate from their normal finances and do not act as agents

WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING

England & Wales - Charity number 1175399

Accounts

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting Trustees
Annual Report and Accounts 2022



Charity Number 1175399

Clerk to Trustees,

22 Cloughton Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6PU

Email: marilynfoxall@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 01562 741501

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1. Officers during 2022

Clerking Team:

Lynda Prescott	Worcester Local Meeting
Martin Layton	Bewdley Local Meeting

Assistant Clerk for Membership and Data Protection:

Colin Billett	Bewdley Local Meeting
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Treasurer:

Rachael Swancott Boon	Shrewsbury Local Meeting
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Area Meeting Trustees who served during 2022:

Marilyn Foxall (Clerk)	Bewdley Local Meeting
Rachael Swancott Boon (Treasurer)	Shrewsbury Local Meeting
Peter Bevan	Malvern Local Meeting
Rae Evans	Telford Local Meeting
Paul Mountain	Worcester Local Meeting

Custodian Trustee:

Friends Trusts Ltd., Registered Charity 237698
173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Bankers to the Area Meeting held accounts:

TSB, Church Stretton Branch.

COIF Charity Funds, CCLA Investment Management Ltd. 80 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6DZ

In addition, each of the local constituent meetings of the Area Meeting has one or more bank accounts that they manage.

2. Information and Governance:

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting began operating as a Registered Charity from 1st January 2014 as Charity number 1155482. With effect from 26th October 2017, it re-registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1175399.

The Charity was established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes that derive from, or bear witness to, the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), within Worcestershire and Shropshire.

Quaker Faith & Practice, the book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting, governs the Area Meeting's affairs.

The Area Meeting appoints the Trustees of the charity following nominations from the Nominations Committee. These appointments are without financial remuneration.

The Annual Report recognises the requirement of Britain Yearly Meeting and the Charity Commission to outline the Public Benefit of the charity as indicated in Charity Commission publication April 2017 '*Telling your story well: public benefit reporting by charities*'.

The template offered by *Quaker Faith & Practice* (5th Edition), Chapter 14, is used to compile this report.

2.1 Trustees normally meet at least four times a year. All meetings are conducted according to Quaker business method. In 2022 trustees had seven meetings and the following items of business were considered, details are available in the minutes of these meetings:

Trustees met on the following dates:

11th January 2022, 22nd January 2022, 8th March 2022, 26th April 2022, 24th May 2022, 12th July 2022 and 22nd November 2022.

Matters considered at Trustees' Meetings included: new and revised Policy Documents, Record Keeping, Repairs to Coalbrookdale Burial Ground, AM and LM accounts and annual reports to Friends' House and the Charity Commission.

3. Public Benefit Achievements and Activities within the Area Meeting in 2022

3.1 Membership information for 2022

Tabular Statement

Applications for membership had been very much reduced during 2022, with just one very welcome addition to Bewdley.

There was no movement into the Area Meeting. We had one resignation from Worcester, and a similar number of deaths as in previous years, one in Worcester, two in Telford and two in Malvern. There were two transfers out, both from Bewdley and no transfers in. There was one 'movement within Area Meeting', which was a Bewdley Friend who is now 'unattached', perhaps something to ponder for the future.

Name of Local Meeting	Adults
BEWDLEY	29
CHURCH STRETTON	11
MALVERN	28
SHREWSBURY	34
TELFORD	31
WORCESTER	34
UNATTACHED	2
Area Meeting Total	169

3.2 Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker Meetings

During 2022 all Local Meetings gradually returned to holding Meetings for Worship in the manner of Friends, with growing numbers of individuals gathering in person to worship together. During 2022, some Local Meetings experienced a drop in the numbers of Friends attending their Meetings for Worship. All Meetings did their best to be inclusive, support absent Friends, and stay in touch with each other.

Whilst most Friends welcomed the opportunity to return to in person gatherings, for some it was more challenging and they welcomed the opportunity of continuing to worship online, particularly during blended Meetings at Bewdley, Telford and Worcester. Shrewsbury Local Meeting moved to a pattern of alternating in person worship with online zoom meetings, to facilitate Friends' differing needs. Malvern and Church Stretton continued to meet in person for worship.

Church Stretton Friends held a number of meetings relating to inclusion, sharing their experiences, helped by Mary Martin who has worked on issues of inclusion elsewhere in Britain Yearly Meeting.

In addition to their Sunday Worship, Telford Friends held Thursday Meetings for Worship and monthly Meetings for Worship in Bridgnorth. They had a meeting for learning exploring Friends' individual gifts and, also created a book they call 'Quaker Lives Looking Back' recording the lives of Telford Friends who have died.

To lay a good foundation for their Meeting's health, Malvern Meeting held a residential weekend at Holland House in March 2022. Shrewsbury Meeting held monthly 'Discussions with Friends' and hosted a performance of 'Lover of Souls', written and performed by Lynn Morris of the Journeyman Theatre Company, a 'dramatic evocation of the life of Elizabeth Hooten: the first woman Quaker'.

The Area Meeting (mid-week) Meeting for Worship continued to be held online, each week.

Elders and Pastoral Care Friends ensured that regular readings from *Advices and Queries*, and *Quaker Faith & Practice* were shared during worship and Area Meeting for Worship for Business.

Bewdley, Church Stretton and Telford Friends regularly involved their Childrens' Meetings in worship. Malvern's 'Little Friends' Meeting for young children continued to be held in the afternoon of the first Sunday of the month. Telford's Children and Young People's committee were pleased to see their children's group meeting more frequently, with activities focused on the BYM commitment to sustainability. In September 2022, Area Meeting's Advocate for Children and Young People organised an all age walk and picnic at Bewdley Meeting House.

For details of these events see Local Meeting reports in appendix 1.

3.3 Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

In June, Area Meeting organised a meeting for learning on 'Death and Dying' led by Hugh McMichael, a Pastoral Care Friend.

During 2022 all Local Meetings gradually returned to their normal variety of activities.

Bewdley Friends held an exhibition of art and craft they had created during lockdown. In September they also hosted a performance of 'Breeding Grounds', a play about sustainability written and performed by Journeymen Theatre.

Church Stretton Friends contributed a regular monthly article to the 'Church Stretton Focus' and joined in ecumenical activities with other churches.

Malvern Friends continued to fund and deliver their 'Active Peace Education Programme' working in seven local schools. One Malvern Friend was interviewed twice by local radio talking about 'opening their meeting house to Ukrainians' and the second time talking about 'White Poppies'.

Shrewsbury Local Meeting held an Experiment with Light group in most months during 2022.

Telford Friends appointed a working group to look at publicising their local meeting. They also hosted a performance of *Lover of Souls*, by Journeyman's theatre, raising money for their chosen charity. Telford Friends' book club were busy reading a variety of books, including several that explored the themes of equality, diversity and integrity. A Worcester Friend was involved in Worcester 'Churches Together'.

For details of all these events and more, see Local Meeting reports, in Appendix.

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

During 2022 Local Meetings were more able to return to activities undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering. Some of these activities are given as examples below.

Some Bewdley Friends and their families were active in their local Refugee Support Group. In April, Malvern Friends raised over £900 by hosting a Ukrainian Supper. They regularly opened the Meeting House for refugees to meet socially and learn English, with a creche provided. They have also maintained a link with Long Lartin high security prison. Telford Local Meeting continued to support and work with the local charity STAY, which provides homes for homeless young people and helps them to prepare to live independently. Telford Friends continued to help run the food bank in Broseley and gave to other local food banks. Their fellowship of Healing group supported a Friend working at the Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary cooking group. Shrewsbury Friends extensively supported and welcomed their local Syrian refugees. They also allowed groups such as Sea Change Trust and Sapphire self-harm support group free use of their Meeting House. Worcester Friends became involved in helping and teaching English to Ukrainian refugees who had been moved to Worcester.

In January, Area Meeting held a talk on 'Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture' led by Jane Laxton and Barbara Forbes, two Q-CAT trustees.

Following the July Area Meeting for Business, a group of Area Meeting Friends met to suggest ways of taking forward actions on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion, and Anti-Racism.

Wider participation is also evidenced by Local Meeting Friends being appointed to central Quaker work at Britain Yearly Meeting.

For full details of the work being carried out by Local Meetings see Appendix.

3.5 Funding our Concerns

In 2022 Local Meetings contributed their quota of financial support to Britain Yearly Meeting.

Most Local Meetings made some donations or grants to their chosen concerns. Malvern Friends funded their Active Peace Education Project in local schools, Bewdley Friends gave money to their local Asylum Seekers Support Group and Telford Friends gave individually to the Afghanistan crisis, Woodbrooke and Favela Brass. Church Stretton have donated to several appeals and charities, such as Ukraine Appeal, Sea Change Trust and Shrewsbury Ark.

Local Friends continued to make individual donations to Quaker led charities and other charities of particular interest to Friends, including the support of asylum seekers and refugees and foodbanks.

Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester Local Meetings have returned to letting out their meeting houses as venues to local support groups and those whose activities are aligned to our Quaker concerns.

3.6 Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education.

Elders, Pastoral Care Friends, and other Friends actively shared in the care of vulnerable Friends and endeavoured to involve everyone in Worship and social activities.

A variety of methods were used to support Friends including those with financial need, by assisting individuals with financial aid, helping those applying for grants or signposting to other sources of funding such as charitable bequests.

Local Meetings also created a variety of opportunities for social contact, such as shared lunches, a film or drama production. Telford Friends had local walks, a 'cuppa and chat' after the last Thursday meeting in each month and Church Stretton Friends encouraged all Friends of their meeting to be involved in arranging activities for their monthly Childrens' meeting.

Fellowship of Healing groups continued to meet in person and kept contact with the people on their lists.

Specific ongoing assistance to Local Meetings continues to be provided by Area Meeting hardship fund.

3.7 Maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Church Stretton and Telford Friends do not have their own meeting houses.

Church Stretton Friends continue to rent appropriate rooms in Church Stretton.

Telford Friends hold a licence to worship in Meeting Point House (an ecumenical building). This licence is due for renewal in 2025 and following negotiations it has been agreed to renew it. The intention is to move Telford meetings for worship to the 'Old Chapel' now renamed 'The Octagon'.

Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester Friends have meeting houses which continue to be well maintained with regular reviews of their condition being made. All our meeting houses are let or offered as places for groups to meet and Worcester Friends recently made their meeting house available during Worcester Pride as a quiet space.

3.8 Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Area Meeting met eight times during 2022. Six Meetings for Worship for Business were held online on Zoom, on in person and one blended in person and online. Representatives from each Local Meeting attended all the Area Meeting's Meetings for Worship for Business.

All Local Meetings held their own regular Meetings for Worship for Business.

Local Meetings had representatives on Area Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting committees. A Church Stretton Friend has continued working with Friends from Wales (Symud Ymlaen), Southern Marches and Scotland.

In November, Hilary Topp was appointed as local Development Worker for the West Midlands and Northwest England (South), covering our Area Meeting and four others.

Area Meeting held a meeting for learning in November, on the Book of Discipline Revision led by Rosie Carnall, Mary Woodward and Sally Kikaya, three members of the Book of Discipline revision committee.

3.9 Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies

Trustees were satisfied that Area Meeting and constituent Local Meetings complied with their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy, health and safety legislation.

3.10 Sustainability Considerations

Friends in Local Meetings were encouraged to act on the growing concern for the welfare of Planet Earth and to adopt sustainable practices where possible both collectively and individually.

Bewdley Friends continued to monitor their meeting house for fuel efficiency and were helped by the intelligent heating system.

Malvern Friends continued to use entirely green electricity and the destratification fans were used regularly before meeting for worship.

Shrewsbury Friends have solar PV panels on the roof of their meeting house that generated electricity throughout the year.

Worcester Friends replaced the heating system in their meeting house with a new boiler which is energy efficient. They continued to be involved in the Worcester Grassroots Alliance, which is a coalition of local organisations promoting low and/or zero-carbon development throughout the city.

4. Financial Review

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

NOTES	1	2	3	4			
	Unrestricted AM Central Funds	Unrestricted Local Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Incoming Resources							
Donations, legacies, and similar	200	43,310		413		43,923	37,963
Income from activities to generate funds		33,213				33,213	8,400
Investment income	21	3,502				3,523	3,260
Quaker Activities		1,060				1,060	0
Other Income		21,534				21,534	3,092
Total incoming resources	221	102,619	102,840	413		103,253	52,715
Resources expended							
Costs of Quaker activities	1,702	27,178				28,880	17,084
Grants and donations	129	15,600				15,729	11,172
Costs of generating funds		13,876		950		14,826	9,948
Support Costs	2,999	1,655				4,654	19,398
Governance		25,383				25,383	6,702
Total resources expended	4,830	83,691	88,521	950		89,471	64,303
Net incoming resources before transfers	-4,609	18,928	14,319	-537		13,782	-11,587
Transfers							
Transfers between funds (Quota)	6,960	-6,960				0	0
Other Transfers between Meetings							
Other transfers		-8				-8	
Net incoming resources before revaluations	2,351	11,960	14,311	-537		13,774	-11,587
Gains (losses) on investments		-10,374				-10,374	10,618
Net movement in funds	2,351	1,586	3,937	-537		3,400	-970
Revaluation of Property							
Total funds brought forward, 1 January	6	811,576	259,049	653		1,071,278	1,072,248
Prior year adjustment							1
Total funds carried forward, 31 December	813,927	260,635	1,074,562	116		1,074,678	1,071,279
These balances are held as:							
Total fixed assets	800,000	74,936				874,936	895,311
Net current assets	13,928	185,698		116		199,742	175,969
Net assets	813,928	260,635	1,074,563	116		1,074,679	1,071,279
Acting as agent							
B/Fwd							
In	5		839			839	1,573
Out			4,487			4,487	6,657
C/Fwd	0	176	176	0		176	839

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total 2022	Total 2021
		Central	Local	Special		
		1	2 3	4		
Fixed assets						
Land and buildings	6	800,000.00			800,000.00	800,000.00
Fixtures and fittings					0.00	0.00
Investments			74,936.24		74,936.24	95,310.68
Total fixed assets		800,000.00	74,936.24	0.00	874,936.24	895,310.68
Current assets						
Debtors			3,380.00		3,380.00	1,853.00
Short term deposits		1,380.00	137,825.97		139,205.97	117,830.26
Cash at bank and in hand		12,547.00	44,688.79	116.00	57,351.79	56,827.80
Total current assets		13,927.00	185,894.76	116.00	199,937.76	176,511.06
Current liabilities						
Creditors within one year			196.00		196.00	542.00
Creditors after one year			0.00		0.00	0.00
Net current assets		13,927.00	185,698.76	116.00	199,741.76	175,969.06
Net assets		813,927.00	260,635.00	116.00	1,074,678.00	1,071,279.74

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1. Unrestricted funds, the centrally managed accounts
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended December 31 2022

	Notes	Unrestricted General	Designated Extension	Total 2022	Total 2021
Incoming Resources					
Contributions (and tax reclaimed)				0.00	1305.00
Bank interest on deposits					
Dividends on shares, etc.		21.14		21.14	0.26
Total Incoming Resources before transfers		21.14	0.00	21.14	1305.26
Total Incoming Resources					
		21.14	0.00	21.14	1305.26
Resources Expended					
Costs of Quaker activities					
Children and young people	1	650.00		650.00	900.00
Committees and conferences				0.00	345.00
BYM Gathering					
Refund of expenses to Trustees	2a	217.00		217.00	0.00
Refund of expenses to Officers, etc.	2b	335.00		335.00	22.45
Quaker Quest					
Child Protection					
Other costs of Quaker activities	3	500.00		500.00	179.99
Total costs of Quaker activities		1702.00	0.00	1702.00	1447.44
Grants, subscriptions, donations					
... to BYM					
... to ecumenical and interfaith bodies					
... Woodbrooke					
... CCPAS/Thirty One Eight	4	129.00		129.00	129.00
... To Individuals					
YFGM				0.00	75.00
Total costs of grants, etc		129.00	0.00	129.00	204.00
Governance and Support costs					
Insurance excess paid					
Insurance - AM wide		2477.65		2477.65	1983.48
Professional fees		325.00		325.00	3258.00
Trustee meetings					
General support costs		195.89		195.89	418.99
Total costs of support and governance		2998.54	0.00	2998.54	5660.47
Total Resources Expended before transfers		4829.54	0.00	4829.54	7311.91
Transfers to and from Local Meetings					
Receipt of Quotas from Local Meetings		-6960.00		-6960.00	-7000.00
Donations from LM's		-200.00		-200.00	
Total Transfers to Local Meetings		-7160.00	0.00	-7160.00	-7000.00
Prior Year Adjustments					
Total resources expended		-2330.46	0.00	-2330.46	311.91
Revaluation of Property					
Net movement in funds		2351.60	0.00	2351.60	993.35
Total funds brought forward 1 January		804912.70	6663.00	811575.70	810582.35
Total funds carried forward 31 December		807264.30	6663.00	813927.30	811575.70
These funds were held as follows:					
Fixed Assets					
Property				800000.00	800000.00
Current Assets					
COIF deposit account				1380.00	1380.00
Lloyds TSB current account				12547.30	10195.70
				13927.30	11575.70
less Current Liabilities					
Creditor					
Net current assets				13927.30	11575.70
Total Assets				813927.30	811575.70

Note 2. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2022

	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Worcester	Total 2022	Total 2021
Incoming Resources									
Donations, legacies, and similar		4,746	1,175	13,697	4,244	6,076	13,371	43,310	36,325
Income from activities to generate funds		6,694		4,085	4,200		18,235	33,213	8,400
Investment income		212		2,296	704	28	261	3,502	3,260
Quaker Activities				1,060				1,060	0
Other income		1,611		10,180	9,733	10		21,534	3,092
Total incoming resources		13,264	1,175	31,319	18,880	6,114	31,867	102,619	51,077
Resources expended									
Costs of Quaker activities		586	30	16,443	248	305	9,567	27,178	15,065
Grants and donations		4,000	259	6,265	1,976	3,100		15,600	10,968
Premises and paid employees		9,021		5,276	10,286	800		25,383	18,979
Costs of generating funds				0			13,876	13,876	9,948
Management and administration			1,023	632				1,655	1,461
Total resources expended		13,607	1,312	28,616	12,510	4,205	23,443	83,691	56,420
Net incoming resources before transfers		(343)	(137)	2,703	6,370	1,910	8,424	18,928	(5,343)
Transfers									
Transfers to AM (quota)		(1,200)	(440)	(1,200)	(1,360)	(1,320)	(1,440)	(6,960)	(7,000)
Transfers from Restricted Funds							(8)	(8)	
Other transfers									
Net incoming resources before revaluations		(1,543)	(577)	1,503	5,010	590	6,976	11,960	(12,343)
Gains (losses) on investments				(10,374)				(10,374)	10,618
Net movement in funds		(1,543)	(577)	(8,872)	5,010	590	6,976	1,585	(1,725)
Total funds brought forward, 1 Jan		33,929	12,889	103,240	61,624	12,535	34,832	259,049	260,774
Prior year adjustment								0	1
Total funds carried forward, 31 Dec		32,387	12,313	94,369	66,634	13,125	41,808	260,635	259,050
These balances are held as:									
Total fixed assets				74,936				74,936	95,311
Net current assets		32,387	12,313	19,432	66,634	13,125	41,808	185,698	163,740
Net assets		32,387	12,313	94,369	66,634	13,125	41,808	260,635	259,051

Note 3. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2022

	Notes						Total	
		Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Worcester	2022
Total fixed assets								
Land and Buildings							0	0
Fixtures and Fittings							0	0
Investments				74,936			74,936	95,311
Total Fixed Assets		0	0	74,936	0	0	74,936	95,311
Current Assets								
Debtors		128			226		3,380	1,853
Short term deposits		26,367		18,273	56,167		137,826	116,450
Cash at bank and in hand		5,892	12,313	1,159	10,398	13,145	44,689	45,979
Total Current Assets		32,387	12,313	19,432	66,790	13,145	185,895	164,282
Current Liabilities								
Creditors within one year					156	20	196	542
Creditors after one year							0	0
Total Current Liabilities		0	0	0	156	20	196	542
Net Current Assets		32,387	12,313	19,432	66,634	13,125	185,699	163,740
Net Assets		32,387	12,313	94,369	66,634	13,125	260,635	259,051

Note 4. Restricted Funds
Statement of Financial Affairs for the Year ended 31st December
2022

	Notes	Stay startup packs	Total 2022	Total 2021
INCOMING RESOURCES				
Voluntary Income				
Contributions (and tax reclaimed)		413	413	333
Total voluntary income		413	413	333
Activities for generating funds				
Book and card sales				
Total from generating funds		0	0	0
Investment income				
Bank interest on deposits				
Total from investments		0	0	0
Other incoming resources				
Total other incoming resources		0	0	0
Total incoming resources		413	413	333
RESOURCES EXPENDED				
Grants, subscriptions, donations				
... to other bodies				
Total costs of grants, etc		0	0	0
Costs of Quaker Activities				
Costs of generating funds		950	950	571
Support costs		0	0	0
Building improvements				
Bank charges				
Other support costs - professional fees				
Total direct support costs		0	0	0
Total resources expended		950	950	571
Net incoming/outgoing resources before transfers		(537)	(537)	(238)
Designated Transfers:				
From AM			0	0
To another fund of the managing LM			0	0
		0	0	0
Net incoming/outgoing resources after transfers		(537)	(537)	(238)
Gains/losses on investments		0	0	0
Net movement in funds		(537)	(537)	(238)
Total funds brought forward, 1 January		653	653	892
Prior Year's adjustment				
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		116	116	653
These funds are held as:				
Fixed assets: Investments				
Total fixed assets		0	0	0
Current assets: Debtors				
Short-term deposits (e.g. COIF)		0	0	0
Cash at bank and in hand				
Total current assets		0	0	0
<i>Less creditors</i>				
Net current assets		0	0	0
Net assets		0	0	0

Note 5 - Acting as agent

	Central	Bewdley	Ch Stretton	Malvern	Shrewsbury	Telford	Worcester	Total 2022	Total 2021
Received									
Held over previously				607.79		231.00		838.79	1,572.79
Collections					4,486.63			4,486.63	6,656.75
	0.00	0.00	0.00	607.79	4,486.63	231.00	0.00	5,325.42	8,229.54
Paid Over				607.79	4,330.63	211.00		5,149.42	7,390.75
Net Held	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	156.00	20.00	0.00	176.00	838.79

The table above shows money collected by local meetings Acting as Agents. Bewdley, Church Stretton and Worcester meetings keep any special collections completely separate from their normal finances and do not act as agents

Note 6. Land and Buildings

The Value of Worcester Friends Meeting House appears in the accounts of Worcestershire Friends Charity.

The values of Bewdley, Malvern and Shrewsbury Meeting Houses appear in the accounts of the Area Meeting. The Area Meeting Trustees act as Managing Trustees for these properties, with Friends Trusts Ltd. as custodian trustees. Local Meetings have been asked to update the insurance valuation with an actual valuation once every 5 years as part of their quinquennial survey, but all properties were professionally valued at the end of 2019 as follows:

Valuation of Property

Market values:	£
Bewdley FMH	150,000
Malvern FMH	350,000
Shrewsbury FMH	<u>300,000</u>
Total	<u>800,000</u>

Insurance (rebuild) values:	£
Bewdley FMH	217,000
Malvern FMH	308,000
Shrewsbury FMH	<u>350,000</u>
Total	<u>875,000</u>

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for accounting by Charities has been followed in so far as it is applicable to these accounts.

Income and expenditure

Accruals and prepayments have been included in the income and expenditure where the amounts are significant and their inclusion will give greater clarity to the financial statements.

Contributions and grants

Contributions and grants are treated as income in the year in which they are received.

Transfers

Movements of money between funds are shown as transfers, and consist of the Quota payable by local meetings to the area meeting, and any other voluntary transfers between meetings.

Interest, dividends, rents, and legacies

These are all taken into account when received and treated as income in the year.

Direct taxation

All the activities of the Area Meeting are charitable and therefore exempt from income tax, capital gains and inheritance tax. There are no trading profits.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate how Funds can be used, they are categorized according to the following definitions:

Unrestricted: Funds which are freely available for any purpose of the Area Meeting. Designated Funds are a subcategory of these. They have been set aside for specific purposes, but they remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting which can change this purpose at any time.

Restricted: Funds which have been earmarked by the donor or testator for certain specific purposes.

Land and buildings

These consist of the meeting houses which are held for the furtherance of the Area Meeting's charitable objects. **See Note 9**

Investments

Investments are included at their market or estimated realizable value at 31 December.

Trustees remuneration

No Trustee received any remuneration in respect of service given during the year.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of
Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting**

I report on the accounts of the Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting for the year ended 31st December 2022, which are set out on pages 1 to 10 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records; and
- to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:  FCA

Date: 03/10/23

Appendix

Local Meetings - Annual Review

ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2022 for Bewdley Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

Friends were thankful to join and connect via online blended meetings for worship which reduced some of the isolation for some and gave opportunity for Friends less able or in caring roles to meet together. We continued with blending meetings throughout 2022, with always a few people joining online.

Attendance for MFW is down from pre covid numbers and some members expressed deep concern about the state of the meeting following lockdown. Elders tried to bring healing for all of the members and attenders by circulating a survey in November 2021. The results were looked at in depth in January 2022. There seemed to be some divide between those worshipping on zoom and those in the meeting house. Our community and Elders all suffered during lockdown. Elders have been exploring ways to build our community and are in the process of setting up regular monthly extended periods of worship during 2023.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

An exhibition was held at MH of creative work undertaken by members and attenders during lockdown. The exhibition was well attended and there was a further presentation in April as a contribution to Wyre Forest Susfest.

In September we organised a performance of 'Breeding Grounds' by Journeymen Theatre, a very well attended event at St George's Hall in Bewdley.

Two young people joined in the National Program & BYM, some online and in person and attended regularly.

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

Some members and their families are active in the Refugee Support Group and shared time together at the MH over the Christmas period. Bewdley Friends are currently small in number and unable to actively engage, but we were able to give significant financial support to Wyre Forest Supports Asylum Seekers for their work with young men in local hotels.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Bewdley Friends continue to give on a regular basis, and our efforts to maintain our meeting house in good order have produced significant income from lettings.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education.

The lack of active pastoral carers during the year has been a difficulty, but Elders have been keen to keep in touch with members not regular attending, as have a number of Friends. We endeavour to be aware of any in financial need.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Premises committee has met regularly throughout the year and have kept the building in good repair and ensured the garden is well looked after. Regular safety checks have been conducted.

We have had a defibrillator installed in the meeting house. Blinds have been installed in the main meeting room.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

We continue to monitor our building for fuel efficiency, and are helped by our intelligent heating system. A number of Friends are engaged with local groups concerned with sustainability.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Bewdley has found it difficult to fill posts this year, in particular a treasurer, and whilst all the required administration has been completed, it has meant drawing on the help of another Friend in the area meeting. It is hoped that Friends in Bewdley will be able to undertake the necessary roles in the future.

Bewdley Local Meeting continues to make an annual contribution to Britain Yearly Meeting.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

Bewdley meeting has one young member attending regularly, and this member joins the main meeting for worship. Should any new children arrive we hopefully have capacity to restore previous practices – the clerk for instance to do the CRB checks.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	Yes
Obtaining references where appropriate	Yes

completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	Yes

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

No formal process at this time.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	Equipment tested weekly, and evacuation tested regularly.
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	Regularly.
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	Regularly by Premises Committee.
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	Circulated at least once a year.

ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

Please complete your report letting us know what your Meeting has done in the past year using the following headings from Quaker Faith and Practice 14.04.

These will be consolidated to produce an Annual Report for the Area Meeting as a whole. We don't want a list under each heading but one or two good examples as well as areas for improvement.

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2022

Annual Report for Church Stretton Local Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends: a Local Meeting within Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting.

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

Believing that worship is absolutely vital to the life of our Meeting we have met to worship every Sunday; and all we do flows from the Spirit we discover in worship. We have held a number of meetings relating to inclusion, sharing our experiences, we were helped by the presence of Mary Martin who has worked on issues of inclusion elsewhere in BYM.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

Every month we contribute an article to the 'Church Stretton Focus' which is widely distributed around the town. It is a common experience for non-Quakers you meet, to comment on what you have written. For our December article, we each (including the children) wrote a few sentences about what Christmas meant to us. Several members have affiliations with other churches and we have contributed to joint ecumenical activities.

One of our members has been working with Friends in Wales and the Marches amalgamate their charities into a single CIO to release more energy for Quaker worship, work and witness. The Symud Ymlaen – Moving Forward committee has worked on producing sufficient details, a draft governing document, a draft general MOU and a property MOU to enable the Area Meetings to discern whether they should commit to this. They have now formally committed to join a single charity. She is working on a similar project with General Meeting for Scotland.

(3) Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad
Friends serve often generously and sometimes sacrificially in a number of ways but not always 'wearing a Quaker badge'

(4) Funding our concerns.

We have covered the cost of our regular meetings.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

We have been active in visiting and supporting those Friends who are not always able to come to meeting for worship.

In addition to often coming to some or all of our regular meetings for worship, on third Sunday of the month we hold children's meeting. Every member of our meeting is involved in this, taking turns to work in pairs to arrange an activity for our two resident children who are often joined by a visiting child. Themes have included posters, plants and people. Being responsible for children's meeting is an enriching experience for the adults as well as the children.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

n/a

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

We serve fair trade coffee. By using rented accommodation we keep to a minimum our meeting's direct carbon footprint. Our individual members strive to reduce energy use and to recycle.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Our meeting is represented at almost all Area Meetings and members have accepted Area Meeting responsibilities.

Our meeting made a direct financial contribution to BYM funds, and also contributed indirectly through our contribution to the Area Meeting.

One of our members is on GRYM, the group to review Yearly Meetings and Yearly Meeting Gatherings which has also been asked to review Meeting for Sufferings. Their report was considered by Meeting for Sufferings in November and part of that report was forwarding for the consideration of Yearly Meeting in 2023. (See also second paragraph of 2. above.)

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Our decision that our children are part of our meeting, not some separate add on, but fully a part of it, makes the idea of appointing a separate group of Friends to work with them seem artificial, it is the whole meeting's responsibility. This is, perhaps, not

a usual model it makes the helpers form seem odd, the meeting doesn't give Friends much opportunity not to get involved, it's just a part of the life of the meeting.

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	This had not been done in 2022 but has been done since.
Obtaining references where appropriate	We are such a tight-knit community that references would seldom be appropriate, but we do need to keep this in mind.
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	No, it's not clear who might induct us as we are all involved.

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

The whole meeting is involved in working with the children, those who are more confident tend to take the lead, but often the best ideas come from those who are less confident. We learn from each other. There is a children's committee that arranges the rota and encourages Friends to participate.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book		
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.		
Portable electrical appliance testing		
Health and safety policy reviewed.		

Warning signs in place.		
Conditions of use for hirers		

ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

Please complete your report letting us know what your Meeting has done in the past year using the following headings from Quaker Faith and Practice 14.04.

We don't want a list under each heading but one or two good examples as well as areas for improvement.

Annual Report for Malvern Quaker Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

We held a successful residential weekend at Holland House in March. 21 Friends (15 resident) took part. It was a greatly valued and enjoyable event that achieved its aim of helping to know one another better and laying a good foundation for the meeting's health.

Over the year the numbers coming to Meeting for Worship has grown and is now similar to that in the pre-pandemic times. The possibility of holding Blended Meetings has been considered. The meeting house was subsequently connected to the internet but there has been little energy to pursue blended meetings. Occasional shared lunches after Meeting for Worship resumed in July.

There have been no study sessions this year, but we have now had the first of a planned series in 2023 focusing on anti-racism.

'Little Friends' meetings for young children continues to be held in the afternoon of the first Sunday of each month.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

One of our Members has been interviewed twice on the local radio. The first time was about how we were opening up the Meeting House to Ukrainians, following the letter she had printed in the Friend and the second time about White Poppies.

A white poppy wreath was laid during the annual Remembrance ceremonies in Great Malvern as in previous years and, for the first time, at Malvern Wells war memorial.

Our “Active Peace Education” Programme continues to grow, funded by our Meeting. Seven local schools are now involved.

We are comfortable with the overall level at which the Meeting House is being used by hirers, being a compromise between having the building used by the community and gaining reasonable income while not having the premises over-burdened.

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

In April we hosted a very successful Ukrainian Supper at the Meeting house which raised over £900. From April through to September we opened the Meeting House for refugees as a social meeting place, and provided a creche while English was taught to Refugees.

We continue to support the relief of suffering through grants and our Special Collections.

Our link with Long Lartin high security prison continues.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Our income and outgoings are balanced disregarding the Active Peace Education (APE) project which is funded from our legacy fund. We received additional funding through the lettings income insurance claim progressed through Area Meeting.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

The resignation of one Pastoral Care Friend and the illness of another has impacted on the workload of the PCFs given to individual friends. It is their intention to arrange gatherings of their ‘flock’ groups in 2023.

We have continued the practice of sending emails out most Fridays, titled *Malvern Meeting Matters*. These are then used by the presiding Elder for notices (none of the Clerking Team are able to get to Meeting regularly). This keeps friends who are not able to get to Meeting informed about what is going on.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

The Quinquennial Meeting House Survey was carried out in October. This was a very thorough report and it identified a number of building maintenance works. These are being progressed, and include testing the electrics, installing more fire extinguishers, roofing work, professional restoration of the front gate and investigating the installation of a fire alarm that can be remotely monitored.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

We have given much consideration in the past about how to make our Meeting House more sustainable and have implemented the measures we feel are appropriate. The latest improvement installed in 2021 was destratification fans, and these are now being used regularly, before Meeting for Worship. We continue to use entirely green electricity.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

The Meeting has a Clerking Team, who share the roles of internal and external communications, and Clerking Meetings for Worship for Business. These have been held on Zoom throughout 2022.

We donate regularly to BYM. These contributions were increased in 2022.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	N/A – see below
Obtaining references where appropriate	N/A – see below
completing a criminal records disclosure	N/A – see below
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	N/A – see below

At Little Friends the children are always accompanied by a parent or responsible adult and in school the class teacher is in overall responsibility. Therefore we are never responsible for the children's safety and wellbeing.

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

The leaders of Little Friends are both experienced teachers, Advanced DBS holders, food handlers certificates. Further training not required at present.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	

ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

Please complete your report letting us know what your Meeting has done in the past year using the following headings from Quaker Faith and Practice 14.04.

These will be consolidated to produce an Annual Report for the Area Meeting as a whole. We don't want a list under each heading but one or two good examples as well as areas for improvement.

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2022 Annual Report for Shrewsbury Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

We held Meeting for Worship on Sunday every week, except on December 25th, with the option of joining by Zoom. Initially blended Meetings where Friends could either attend in person or online were held on each Sunday but during the year we moved to a pattern of blended Meetings on the first and third Sundays of the month, with in-person-only Meetings on other Sundays.

Instead of reading out Notices after Meeting, the Clerk sends out a weekly email to all those in the Meeting who wish to receive it, giving details of forthcoming events and other items that might be of interest to Quakers. This allows those who are unable or disinclined to attend Meeting for Worship on Sunday to keep in touch.

The number of Friends attending Meeting for Worship during the covid pandemic had dropped as low as three, but during 2022 they grew back with a typical attendance by the end of the year of twelve to sixteen Friends.

“Discussions with Friends” sessions have been held in most months during the year.

On 12th April we hosted a performance of *Lover of Souls*, written and performed by Lynn Morris – a dramatic evocation of the life of Elizabeth Hooten: the first woman Quaker.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

This year we have focussed on rebuilding worship in our own Meeting and have not felt that we have the capacity for outreach.

An Experiment with Light group met in most months during 2022 and was much appreciated by Members and Attenders of Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting who participated.

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

We have given free use of the MH to:

Sea Change Trust

Shropshire supports refugees

Sapphire self-harm support group.

In recent years we have invited Syrian refugees to use the Meeting House for storing clothes and other things and then dispersing them to those in need. The refugees also use the Meeting House for special events, such as a celebration of the birth of a child.

Cath Shaw (an Attender of Shrewsbury Meeting) was the first in Shropshire to offer a home to a family of Ukrainian refugees. The family continue to stay in the Shaw's flat in a converted barn - the arrangement has worked out very well.

Recently the Lion Hotel in Shrewsbury has started to be used to accommodate refugees after they have passed through the reception centre at Manston in Kent. Cath Shaw and her singing group went to sing to the refugees as a welcome. Marion Johnson and Judith Jefferson collected biscuits donated by Sainsbury's and gave them to the refugees as a bonus to enjoy.

At a recent Business Meeting, Shrewsbury Quaker Meeting agreed to collect donated clothes and household items in the Meeting House and deliver batches of them to a hub for refugees in the Riverside Shopping Centre. So far donations have included clothing for young men, new underwear for men and a travel cot.

(4) Funding our concerns.

We have held collections after Meeting for Worship each week, following the practice of collecting during four to six months for a group of three or four charities, selected at a Business Meeting.

We have also given one-off donations from Meeting funds in 2022 to

DEC Ukraine Appeal - £250

DEC Pakistan Appeal - £250 + £65 cash donations from Friends

A Meeting house repair appeal - £50

Sea Change Trust (Psychotherapy charity) - £200

Shrewsbury Ark (Homeless charity) - £200

Woodbrooke - £100

We also give £25 / month to Shrewsbury Food Hub

Friends' have contributed £3535 to BYM and £200 to AM in 2022 with our Meeting acting as agent.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Each member and attender in the Shrewsbury Meeting is assigned to a Pastoral Care Friend, who has kept in touch by phone and visits. The needs of those in the Meeting varied considerably with several having a particularly difficult year. We restarted social events after the covid pandemic had receded, including bring-and-share lunches, one of which was a pre-Christmas lunch held at the home of Alison and Andrew Allott. Ruth Anderson has held film showings in her home as another opportunity to meet socially.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Premises Committee has carried out maintenance tasks on the Meeting House. We use the services of a cleaner each week and of two gardeners as needed.

We continue to rent out the Meeting House to a wide variety of local groups, with rents set at an affordable level. We have weekly jazz and singing groups. A weekly self-harm support group meets at the Meeting House. Many counselling/meditation/yoga sessions are held at the Meeting House. The local community uses MH for children's parties/wakes/environmental meetings. Shropshire Friends of Palestine meetings are held at the Meeting House.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

We have solar PV panels on the roof of the Meeting House and have been generating electricity throughout the year.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Our support of Britain Yearly Meeting has been limited this year. We have contributed funds but have not provided support in terms of time spent in active involvement. This is perhaps something that we should have as a target for the future.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

We do not currently have children in the Meeting and although some members of the Meeting had CRB checks in the past, they are almost certainly out of date. There seems no prospect of activities for children starting again in the near or medium term so we do not regard the procedures listed in the table as a priority.

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	N/A
Obtaining references where appropriate	N/A
completing a criminal records disclosure	N/A
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	N/A

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We do have one young couple in the Meeting with a baby, but they have withdrawn from all Meeting activities since the baby's birth. So, as explained in the previous answer, we do not have children attending Meeting and our focus is on strengthening worship for adults. If the situation changes, we shall of course put arrangements in place for supporting and training those within the Meeting who are nominated for service with children.

Andrew Allott
(Clerk of Shrewsbury Meeting)

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2022

Annual Report for Telford Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

During 2022, Telford Friends, just like those in other meetings, continued to return to more and more in-person activities. However, we continued (and still do) to blend our Sunday meeting for worship and our monthly Friends Fellowship of Healing meetings with those joining by Zoom. When Meeting Point House was closed for a fortnight at the end of the year, our Sunday meeting or worship continued on Zoom.

Our weekly Thursday meeting for worship is continuing. Small numbers of people attend but it is a valuable opportunity for a few who cannot come to meeting on Sundays. The monthly meeting for worship at Bridgnorth has recently moved to new premises.

We received an interesting report from our Children and Young People's committee and are pleased to see the group meeting more often again. Their activities have focussed on the BYM commitment to sustainability (including simplicity, COP26, recycling, endangered species, local and global wildlife). They also learned about Rosa Parks and thought about diversity.

We have continued to offer a suggested reading, usually from *Quaker faith and practice*, and now just once a week. This provides a link with those worshipping at home and those in person. The elders endeavour to give everyone in the meeting the opportunity to select these readings. Some people read their choice aloud during meeting for worship if they feel moved to do so.

Our librarians encouraged us to review our realistic use of the many books in our library. We decided to reduce the number of books to those most likely to be borrowed and the others have been donated to other libraries (where wanted) or charity shops.

We held one meeting for learning exploring our individual gifts.

In response to Area Meeting minute 20.23 *Records of deceased Friends and Testimonies* and the advice in *Quaker faith and practice* 4.29 'that local meetings should write a brief passage for their own records on every member who dies', we have created an ongoing record of our deceased Friends, which we call '*Quaker Lives Looking Back*'. This is in the form of an album in our library and also kept electronically.

Many Friends have commented that our community has remained strong following the pandemic, helped no doubt by individual contacts maintained between Friends as well as all those who serve the meeting in both appointed and informal roles. We are very pleased to have been joined by new attenders during the year.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

During the year we appointed a working group to look at publicising our meeting. They have worked on better signage and our noticeboards at Meeting Point House, our website and local media.

In November, we hosted a powerful performance by Journeyman's Theatre of *Lover of Souls*, a one-woman dramatization of key moments in the life of Elizabeth Hooton, early Quaker and mentor to George Fox.' Despite efforts to publicise this event, there was a disappointing audience of only seventeen but the collection for their chosen charities raised £122.00. We were reminded that we will need to 'work harder' to publicise future outreach events.

On World Quaker Day, one Friend used Zoom to join a local meeting in another area in the morning plus a number of meetings in other Yearly Meetings throughout the day, successfully negotiating the time zones! A group of three other Friends visited another meeting in our area meeting in person.

Our book club meeting via Zoom and their choice of books included several that explored equality, diversity and integrity: Brit Bennett's *The Vanishing Half*,

Bernadine Evaristo's *Girl, Woman, Other* (both now on the AM resource list), V.S. Naipaul's *A House for Mr Biswas* (about the Trinidadian Indian Community), *The Round House* - Louise Erdrich (about Native American Indians) and Attica Locke's *Bluebird Bluebird* (about racial tensions in modern day rural East Texas)

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

Telford Meeting continues to work with the local charity, STAY which provides homes for homeless young people and then helps them prepare to live independently. Telford Friends donate welcome packs, containing essentials including bedding, basic kitchen and dining equipment and toiletries, which the young people can then take with them when they move on to live independently. We are currently able to support ten to twelve young people per year, about 25% of the total found accommodation by STAY.

Friends in Broseley have continued to help run the food bank there and many Friends gave to their local food banks.

Our Friends Fellowship of Healing group has collected donations to support the work of one of our Friends at the Wolverhampton City of Sanctuary **cooking group, which started initially to cook and share dishes and tastes from the many countries represented at their weekly Drop-In. Since the pandemic and the increased number of people living in hotels and on very limited incomes, the offering has become more substantial providing reliably well-cooked and tasty meals.**

Friends in Wellington have supported the Telford and Wrekin Interfaith Council's work by delivering weekly food boxes and helping with the provision of festive meals on Christmas Day.

Our QPSW correspondent has kept us informed about their work.

Other Friends were active in a refugee group, Wellington Peace Garden and arranging Food for Thought talks (as members of Broseley Churches Together). One Friend who cannot get out and about as much as she'd like to now knits Trauma Teddies for Ukraine and refugee children in Britain, through the Women's Institute. The idea is that children who have nothing may find comfort in owning a teddy bear.

Some Friends (individually or in conjunction with national action groups) write letters to people in positions of power hoping to influence important decisions through this personal approach.

Responding to Advices and Queries 42, another Friend volunteers with the Wildlife Trust, helping to preserve and create habitats for plants and animals, and with local walking groups to maintain footpaths and arrange free guided walks for everyone in the local community.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Our special collections run for periods of three months, alternating a local charity with a Quaker one. In 2022 we collected for Quaker **Social Action, Refugee Action's emergency fund for Afghanistan crisis, Woodbrooke and Favela Brass**. Since the pandemic, we provide details of how to donate to these charities individually but the donations no longer go through our accounts.

We have continued to subscribe to Broseley Churches Together; whereas a reorganisation of the board of Telford Christians Together some years ago led to there being no opportunity for Quakers to be represented on the board. Additionally, our attempt to contact them was not replied to. With some sadness, we decided earlier this year not to renew our membership of this group.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

During 2022, we were saddened to lose two of our members. One funeral was held in the manner of Friends and the other was a successful combination of Anglican and Quaker elements.

Our pastoral care team (of three Friends appointed by AM and a further three co-opted by Telford Meeting) endeavours to keep in contact with everyone in our meeting, provide assistance to those applying for grants and create opportunities for social contact, such as a local walk and a cuppa and chat after the last Thursday meeting in each month.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

During 2022 discussions took place relating to the continued use of Meeting Point House as our main place of worship. We agreed to continue using Meeting Point House for our Sunday and Thursday Meetings and following negotiations between ourselves and the managers, we will be renewing our licence with them. We agreed early in the year to move permanently to the 'old chapel' which has been renamed 'The Octagon'. A number of requests for fixtures and fittings were agreed by Meeting Point House.

We have remained in contact with Meeting Point trustees through our representative, who presented a brief report to us relating to the current work being carried out by the Meeting Point House Trustees.

Bridgnorth Meeting had to vacate their place of meeting but quickly found new premises, the Baptist Chapel creche.

We continue to contribute to appeals for other Meeting Houses' repairs and building costs.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

We continue to hold our meetings as 'blended' which undoubtedly saves some costs relating to travel. We see no change in this arrangement for the foreseeable future.

Individually and personally, we try to make further changes in our lifestyles to try to help the country to reach the COP 26 requirements and save the planet. These include the use of plastic free shops, which are becoming more common, recycling and reusing and being aware of how goods are manufactured and their impact on the carbon footprint of the earth.

As can be seen above, (Section 1) many of the themes included in the Children and Young People's Meetings are to encourage them to think about and act upon sustainability.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Our Meeting made a contribution to BYM funds in addition to individual donations.

One member regularly hosts/elders the online Meeting for Worship held by Woodbrooke and one member is our Area Meeting representative on Meeting for Sufferings. Some Friends are active in a variety of Quaker registered bodies including: Experiment with Light network, Friends Fellowship of Healing, Quaker Gender and Sexual Diversity Community, Quaker Disability Equality Group and Quaker Music Network. Others give monetary support to a number of other Quaker groups.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	No. Only appointed members of our Children and Young People's Committee do this work.
Obtaining references where appropriate	No. Only appointed members of our Children and Young People's Committee do this work.
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	No

Each member of our Children and Young Peoples Committee has clearance from the DBS scheme. These Friends are appointed through the usual Quaker nomination process so application forms and references are not felt to be needed or appropriate. Health and Safety regulations are the responsibility of Meeting Point House.

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We do not provide training but we encourage and support members of our CYP Committee to make use of materials provided by Britain Yearly Meeting and to attend relevant support meetings, courses and conferences.

Our overall programme is decided by the CYP Committee. It is modified as needed to be appropriate for whichever young people attend on any particular Sunday. Each session is planned by the pair of workers who will run the session. If a new worker joins the group, s/he will work initially with a more experienced person.

ANNUAL REPORTS 2022

Please complete your report letting us know what your Meeting has done in the past year using the following headings from Quaker Faith and Practice 14.04.

These will be consolidated to produce an Annual Report for the Area Meeting as a whole. We don't want a list under each heading but one or two good examples as well as areas for improvement.

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2022

Annual Report for *Worcester Local Meeting*

- (1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting:** As we have (hopefully!) finally come out of COVID-related lockdowns, it has been a joy to be sharing worship with Friends in person. We have continued to provide Blended Meetings, as some Friends are unable to join us, and having the Blended Meeting enables those who are unable to attend the Meeting in person the option to still be part of our worshipping community. Our Elders/Pastoral Care Friends are proactive in ensuring that we keep in contact with all Friends and Attenders, further enriching our Meeting.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society. As we have emerged from the pandemic, our Meeting is now once again starting to take a role in spreading our message. We have a Friend who is involved with our local “Churches Together” network, and also with local work on helping refugees from the Ukraine who have been moved to Worcester; another Friend is providing English lessons for some Ukrainian refugees on a weekly basis. Other Friends are involved in a number of organisations locally, including the Worcester Grassroots Alliance, and the local Amnesty International group.

(3) Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad The Meeting nominates a charity each month, which could be a local, national, or international charity. In addition, the Meeting House has been used for a number of poetry events raising both funds for and awareness of several different issues , including the situation in the Ukraine, women’s rights, men’s mental health, and the local foodbank. We hope that this association with the local poetry community will continue.

(4) Funding our concerns. As with many organisations, funding has suffered during pandemic times, particularly lettings of the Meeting House. A small group of Friends have been proactive in marketing the Meeting House as a venue for meetings, training days, and the like, and our income is now starting to grow again.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education Our Elders & Pastoral Care Friends are a very important part of our Meeting, and are very proactive in providing pastoral care for members and attenders. We do have funds available for relief of need and for education, and we are also able to signpost Friends to other sources of funding, such as charitable bequests.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world. We have a number of organisations using our Meeting House: information on Friends and what we do is available in the lobby of the building. We have also had open sessions, for instance at last year’s Worcester Pride, where the Meeting House was open for anyone who wanted a quiet space.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably? We continue to act sustainably and responsibly in our use of resources. We have recently replaced the heating

system in the Meeting House with a new boiler which is energy efficient. We continue to be involved with the Worcester Grassroots Alliance, which is a coalition of local organisations looking at promoting sustainability throughout the city.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting’s Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper’s form	Y
Obtaining references where appropriate	Y
completing a criminal records disclosure	Y
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	Y

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children? Support and training will be provided as necessary, including around Safeguarding. We do have a member (Ade Couper) who is responsible for DBS checks, and clerks and elders/pastoral care friends have a good knowledge of Safeguarding policies & procedures.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Y	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Y	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Y	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Y	
Warning signs in place.	Y	
Conditions of use for hirers	Y	

WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING

England & Wales - Charity number 1175399

Accounts

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting Trustees
Annual Report and Accounts 2021

Charity Number 1175399

Clerk to Trustees,

22 Cloughton Street, Kidderminster, Worcestershire, DY11 6PU

Email: marilynfoxall@hotmail.co.uk

Telephone: 01562 741501



Enjoying the Garden of Bewdley Meeting House!

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1. Officers during 2021

Clerking Team:

Lynda Prescott	Worcester Local Meeting
Martin Layton	Bewdley Local Meeting

Assistant Clerk for Membership and Data Protection:

Colin Billett	Bewdley Local Meeting
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Treasurer:

Rachael Swancott Boon	Telford Local Meeting
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Area Meeting Trustees who served during 2021:

Marilyn Foxall (Clerk)	Bewdley Local Meeting
Rachael Swancott Boon (Treasurer)	Shrewsbury Local Meeting
Peter Bevan	Malvern Local Meeting
Rae Evans	Telford Local Meeting
Paul Mountain	Worcester Local Meeting

Custodian Trustee:

Friends Trusts Ltd., Registered Charity 237698
173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Bankers to the Area Meeting held accounts:

TSB, Church Stretton Branch.

COIF Charity Funds, CCLA Investment Management Ltd. 80 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6DZ

In addition, each of the local constituent meetings of the Area Meeting has one or more bank accounts that they manage.

2. Information and Governance:

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting began operating as a Registered Charity from 1st January 2014 as Charity number 1155482. With effect from 26th October 2017, it re-registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1175399.

The Charity was established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes that derive from, or bear witness to, the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), within Worcestershire and Shropshire.

Quaker Faith & Practice, the book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting, governs the Area Meeting's affairs.

The Area Meeting appoints the Trustees of the charity following nominations from the Nominations Committee. These appointments are without financial remuneration.

The Annual Report recognises the requirement of Britain Yearly Meeting and the Charity Commission to outline the Public Benefit of the charity as indicated in Charity Commission publication April 2017 '*Telling your story well: public benefit reporting by charities*'.

The template offered by *Quaker Faith & Practice* (5th Edition), Chapter 14, is used to compile this report.

2.1 Trustees normally meet at least four times a year. All meetings were conducted according to Quaker business method. In 2021 trustees had five meetings and the following items of business were considered, details are available in the minutes of these meetings:

Dated: 20th January 2021

- i) Newly appointed Trustees' declaration of interest forms.
- ii) Constitution for our CIO dated 1st January 2017.
- iii) Memorandum of Understanding.
- iv) Audit of Policy Documents.
- v) Roles and Responsibilities within Trustees.
- vi) Covid Restrictions.
- vii) Wem Local Meeting.
- viii) Annual Report.

Dated: 23rd February 2021

- i) Worcester Grassroots Alliance.
- ii) Personal Liability/Indemnity Insurance for Trustees.
- iii) Tabular Statement Quota.
- iv) A Local Meeting – Conflict Resolution and Proposed Expenditure.
- v) Laying down of Wem Local Meeting.

Dated: 12th April 2021

- i) Safeguarding.
- ii) Trustees' Personal Liability Insurance.
- iii) Communications from our Friend at Wem.
- iv) Reopening our places of worship. Risk Assessments.
- v) Owning our Quaker Properties – Discussion.

Dated: 14th July 2021

- i) Safeguarding Policy Update.

- ii) Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Policy.
- iii) Further communications with our Friend at Wem.
- iv) Coalbrookdale Burial Ground.
- v) Trustees' Annual Report.

Dated: 13th October 2021

- i) Equality, Diversion and Inclusion – Training
- ii) Elders' visit and pastoral care for our Friend at Wem.
- iii) Coalbrookdale Burial Ground – Maintenance.
- iv) Trustees' responsibility for safe record keeping.
- v) Receipt of Trustees' annual report.
- vi) Lifting restrictions in our places of worship.

3. Public Benefit Achievements and Activities within the Area Meeting in 2021

3.1 Membership information for 2021

Tabular Statement

There were four new members recorded during the year, two by conviction and two by transfers in. There were no transfers out and one person resigned their membership. There were six deaths during the year. The net result is that total membership decreased by three from one hundred and seventy-nine members to one hundred and seventy-six.

Name of Local Meeting	Adults	Children	Total
BEWDLEY			
Members	30	0	30
Attenders	6	4	10
CHURCH STRETTON			
Members	11	0	11
Attenders	2	2	4
MALVERN			
Members	30	0	30
Attenders	26	0	26
SHREWSBURY			
Members	34	0	34
Attenders	26	2	28
TELFORD			
Members	33	0	33
Attenders	15	3	18
WORCESTER			
Members	36	0	36
Attenders	21	2	23
UNATTACHED			
Members	2	0	2
Area Meeting Total			
Members	176		176
Attenders	98	11	109

3.2 Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker Meetings

2021 continued to present challenges for everyone as the COVID-19 pandemic remained a concern. Throughout the year Government guidelines and restrictions changed according to infection rates and the need for more or fewer safety

measures. All Local Meetings met these challenges, continuing Meetings for Worship, either online, blended, in person or outdoors, as appropriate.

Many Meetings increased their expertise and improved technical equipment to make online meetings more efficient and user-friendly. A positive outcome of online meetings was that it enabled fellowship for those who were isolating or physically unable to attend in person, Friends in other areas, as well as Friends from abroad.

The Area Meeting (mid-week) Meeting for Worship was held online each week.

Elders and Pastoral Care Friends ensured that regular readings from Advices and Queries, and *Quaker Faith & Practice* were shared during worship and Area Meeting for Worship for Business.

Bewdley, Church Stretton and Telford Friends continued to involve their Children's Meetings in worship, either online or outdoors when indoor meetings were not permitted. Malvern's 'Little Friends' Meeting for young children continued meeting once a month when appropriate. Worcester Friends monthly Children's Meeting stopped after February 2020 and has not restarted. Shrewsbury's children did not attend their meeting during 2021.

Keeping Friends in touch with each other has not been easy and in some instances has resulted in fluctuating attendance or disengagement. Some Meetings have felt fractured and in need of a time of healing. However, despite the limitations and difficulties, most Local Meetings organised a range of online or in-person garden events to encourage all age interaction and strengthen the life of their Meeting.

For details of these events see Local Meeting reports in appendix 1.

3.3 Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

We acknowledge that many of our usual activities were either postponed or reduced because of the restrictions of the pandemic. However, in July Bewdley Friends hosted a garden social and 'Black Lives Matter' walk around Bewdley for Area Meeting Friends. In the autumn, Worcester Friends hosted an in-person, one-day course for attenders across Area Meeting, which was well supported. Malvern Friends continued to provide Peace Education in Malvern schools and were involved in a number of public witnesses in Malvern. Church Stretton Friends each wrote a

piece for the 'Stretton Focus' magazine on some aspect of living as a Quaker. Shrewsbury Friend's Light Group held their monthly meetings whenever possible. Telford Friends helped to arrange 'Food for Thought Talks' with Broseley Churches Together.

Worcester Friends continued to produce a newsletter and Bewdley Friends have used social media to remind the world of their Quaker values and *Quaker Faith & Practice*.

Some Friends joined in Woodbrooke and Britain Yearly Meeting facilitated events online, when available, which has increased their awareness of Quaker thought and practice. Some of these events were on the theme of COP26 and on the 31st October, many Friends from Area Meeting joined in an online special Meeting for Worship in which we upheld communities affected by climate change, and those taking action to defend the environment.

A second local meeting website has been linked on the Quaker Meetings Network, as we continued to work towards having an integrated family of websites, including one for Area Meeting.

Local Meetings with Meeting Houses continued to hire out rooms, when permitted in line with Covid restrictions, to support community activities in line with Quaker values.

For details of all these events and more, see Local Meeting reports, in Appendix 1.

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

The effects of the pandemic were notable in terms of the service Local Meetings could offer for the relief of suffering. Since the numbers of Friends attending their meetings in person dropped considerably, practical collections for food banks, clothes and support for refugees or cash donations from Local Meetings were reduced or stopped. However, individually Friends continued to donate and support where and when they could.

The following are examples of Quaker service in action. Telford Friends continued to support the STAY housing project, the Wellington Peace Garden and Telford Interfaith Council. Church Stretton Friends worked with Stretton Churches Together, to provide computers for school children. Malvern Friends continued as active Prison

Visitors when the pandemic regulations allowed. 'The Worcester Grassroots Alliance' project continued working towards its vision in Worcester. Shrewsbury Friends provided free space in their meeting house for the use of Syrian refugees and a self-help group.

Wider participation is also evidenced by Local Meeting Friends being appointed to central Quaker work at Britain Yearly Meeting.

For full details of the work being carried out by Local Meetings see Appendix 1.

3.5 Funding our Concerns

Although Local Meetings were not asked to provide financial support to Britain Yearly Meeting, some Meetings chose to send a donation.

Most Local Meetings made some donations or grants to their chosen concerns. Malvern Friends funded their Active Peace Education Project in local schools, Shrewsbury and Bewdley Friends gave money to their local Food Hub and Telford Friends subscribed to Broseley Churches Together.

Local Friends continued to make individual donations to Quaker led charities and other charities of particular interest to Friends.

3.6 Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

The persistent presence of the pandemic continued the need and responsibility for providing care and keeping a watching brief on all Friends. As well as Elders and Pastoral Care Friends, other Friends actively shared in this care and tried to ensure that no one was left out. A variety of methods were used to remain in contact with Friends in need, such as, in person visits when appropriate, telephone calls, emails, letters and cards.

Malvern Friends participated in a Restoring Relations process. Bewdley Friends held two, online, 'Time to Talk' sessions. Telford Friends added three more Friends to their Pastoral Care Team working together in the service of the Meeting.

Fellowship of Healing groups continued to meet in person, when and where appropriate, and in Spirit, throughout the lockdowns. They also kept contact with the people on their lists.

Elders and Pastoral Care Friends made visits to our Friend in Wem.

Specific ongoing assistance to Local Meetings continues to be provided by Area Meeting hardship fund.

3.7 Maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Church Stretton and Telford Friends do not have their own meeting houses.

Church Stretton Friends experienced some challenges in renting appropriate premises during 2021 and they are continuing to consider alternative places in which to hold their Meetings for Worship.

Telford Friends hold a licence to worship in Meeting Point House (an ecumenical building). This licence is due for renewal in 2025 and negotiations are already taking place to outline a mutually acceptable legal agreement. During 2021 Telford Friends had use of the 'old chapel' room which they found quieter and more to their liking than their usual room.

Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester Friends have meeting houses which were well maintained and regularly checked through the periods of lockdown. Regular reviews of their condition were made. Shrewsbury Friends made extensive improvements to their garden, boundary fence and general accessibility to the outside area.

Once the pandemic restrictions allowed, our meeting houses reopened with COVID secure arrangements in place so that in-person Meetings for Worship could resume safely. Also, rentals to groups in the wider community began again in the autumn of 2021.

3.8 Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Area Meeting met nine times during 2021. All Meetings for Worship for Business were held online on Zoom. Representatives from each Local Meeting attended all

the Area Meeting's Meetings for Worship for Business. In February 2021 Area Meeting made the difficult decision to lay down Wem Local Meeting.

All Local Meetings held their own regular Meetings for Worship for Business.

Local Meetings had representatives on Area Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting committees.

A Church Stretton Friend has continued working with Friends from Wales (Symud Ymlaen), Southern Marches and Scotland. She has also spoken on online training sessions, run by Jonathan Carmichael as part of the simpler meetings project.

3.9 Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies

Trustees were satisfied that Area Meeting and constituent Local Meetings complied with their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy, health and safety legislation, and COVID-19 restrictions.

Church Stretton Friends are in the process of making provision for all aspects to be covered by Friends working with their Children's Meeting.

3.10 Sustainability Considerations

Local Meetings were encouraged to act on the growing concern for the welfare of Planet Earth and to adopt sustainable practices where possible.

Bewdley Friends have a computer-controlled heating system so that heating was only used where necessary. They also became affiliated to the Wyre Forest Green Alliance.

Malvern Friends used entirely green electricity and installed destratification fans to their heating system.

Shrewsbury Friends have solar panels that generate a good deal of electricity.

Worcester Friends sought advice about sustainability with reference to replacing the meeting house boiler.

Appendix 1
Local Meeting's Annual Reviews

Bewdley Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

2021 has continued to be a very difficult year for the Meeting despite some Covid restrictions being lifted and re-imposed at various times.

We have been thankful for the continued technical support enabling blended meetings to be possible week by week. Friends have worked together to 'fine tune' the technical side of things at the Meeting House.

Elders & PC Friends have tried hard to keep in touch with Members and the wider community and with such activities as virtual coffee mornings, virtual poetry readings etc. The outcome of lockdowns and subsequent government guidelines has not been without cost. As we moved towards the end of the summer, we became aware that there was a growing feeling of disengagement amongst some Friends.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

Unable to meet in person for much of the year, and with many friends still too cautious to attend the meeting house there has been little opportunity to develop our mutual spiritual journeys. However, a few Friends have made much use of social media to remind the world of Quaker faith and practice; one Friend in particular has given much service in this way.

In July we hosted a large group of Friends from across the area meeting for a picnic and an exploration of Bewdley's 'Black History Tour', something which alerted us to our heritage which has often been one of exploitation of enslaved people, but also of the contribution of local Quakers to the fight against slavery. A very detailed accompanying leaflet was provided by the Bewdley Anti-racism Group.

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

We have been too fractured as a community to undertake work in these areas.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Contributions by members fell in 2021, possibly because of the lack of weekly cash collections, and possibly because of the death of a number of local members. Two grants totally £100 were made to other organisations.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Pastoral carers continue to maintain contact with as many Friends as possible. We held two sessions via Zoom of 'Time to Talk, in January and April, when friends were able to share in confidence their own experiences of mental health.

No assistance for those in need or for education was allocated in 2021.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Much work has been done by our premises committee to maintain the fabric and tradition of our meeting house, and continues to be done, for which they have our deep gratitude. All equipment has been maintained or replaced, and new features introduced. We let our building to an increasing number of users who see our simple message and our witness.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

Our heating is controlled by a computerised system so that it is on only when necessary. Our use of blended meeting has the effect of reducing car usage. Our garden is in the process of re-wilding. We have affiliated to Wyre Forest Green Alliance and a small number of friends are active in this and other green initiatives.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

No donation was made to BYM during 2021.

All necessary returns of information were completed during 2021.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions?

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	Yes, but no new helpers in 2021.
Obtaining references where appropriate	Yes
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes

Providing induction into health and safety and their role	Yes
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9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

Yes, but this did not arise in 2021.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	In the kitchen, and PW looks after this.
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	Premises committee look after this.
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	Ditto
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	Ditto
Warning signs in place.	Yes	Ditto
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	The clerk provides this to hirers.

Completed by Colin Billett, clerk of Bewdley LM

Church Stretton Local Meeting

1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

We have met as a meeting each week except for during August. For much of the year we met on line, meeting with Shrewsbury Meeting for much of this time. When Shrewsbury began holding blended meetings, we continued to worship with them on line. We started to meet again in person in July. There are often between a third and a half of Friends from Church Stretton at the Area Meeting's Wednesday evening meeting for worship. In November we started holding a fortnightly study group looking at the book 'A Guided Life' by Craig Barnett which has been attended by nine of the adults in the meeting.

2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

We have continued to share around the meeting, the responsibility of writing a piece for the 'Stretton Focus' magazine. This means that each month the local community has in front of them a different take on some aspect of living as a Quaker.

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

It came to the notice of Churches Together in the Strettons that a number of the students were unable to access education while the schools were closed, because they did not have access to computers. We were able to contribute to the community's effort to supply these children with computers from our legacy fund.

4) Funding our concerns

5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

We have managed to stay in touch with all Friends associated with our meeting. Sometimes this has had to be by telephone or email as they have moved away from Stretton or have significant health problems. We have been able to continue social interchange despite the difficulties imposed by restrictions on meeting up. We have been able to offer lifts, gardening, and information.

Our children often come to meeting and now sometimes come for the whole hour even when there is not a specific children's meeting. Children's meeting started up again on the third Sunday of the month in October when the children asked the adults why they came to meeting and produced a word cloud from their answers (see photo). In December we had a socially distanced and much enjoyed 'nativity play' which felt like a celebration of our being together.

6) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

When we first returned to meeting together in person, we used the large hall in the Sylvestor Horne Institute which provided ample space to sit at a distance from one another. In September we returned to our usual space in committee room one. We are not always comfortable with the level of maintenance and caretaking so we have looked at other options. In July we all looked at the refurbished Scout hut and held a business meeting in Charles West's carport to consider whether we might move there. We decided there were too many things that turned out not to be possible with the Scout Hut so we remain in the SHI.

One of our members toured Scottish Friends during September and her report has contributed to their discussions weighing up the problems of meeting in hired spaces against the effort needed to maintain a meeting house.

7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Many of our members have attend the online Area Meetings held during the year. One of our members is working with Friends in Wales and the Marches doing the preparatory work towards setting up a single charity. She is also working with Friends in Scotland trying to find ways of reducing the time spent running their meetings. She has spoken on a number of online training sessions run by Jonathan Carmichael as part of the simpler meetings project. She is on the BYM committee reviewing the holding of Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting Gathering.

8) Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes/No	Comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	No	This needs to happen, but has not yet. We aim for all members of the meeting, except for their parents, take a turn in meeting with the children.
Obtaining appropriate references	No	
Completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes	
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	No	

9) Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

Members of the meeting who feel confident working with the children, work in a pair with someone who feels less confident.

Telford Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

We were not out of the grips of the pandemic entirely all year but by September we were able to hold our Business Meetings on Sundays again, in person as well as online ("blended").

Our elders continued to provide all of us with an Advice to be read at our Thursday lunchtime meetings, both at home and when we resumed them in person. We asked someone from the blended Sunday meeting to choose a reading from Quaker Faith & Practice and for the monthly Friday meetings in Bridgnorth. The meetings in Bridgnorth never took place online.

Meetings for our young people have improved now they are able to meet in person, generally twice a month. But of the 5 present members the age range varies from 10-16 and we are about to explore ways to involve our young people with the whole meeting from time to time. A very successful private film show was enjoyed in the autumn.

Our various regular groups continued as follows: discussion group (online), Experiment with Light (in person) and Friends Fellowship of Healing group (blended). We were able to hold a social gathering at the home of a member just before Christmas and an on-line meeting on Boxing Day.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

A one-day course for Attenders was held at Worcester Meeting in person in the autumn, which was welcomed and well supported. This of course drew from our Area Meeting range. The continued effects of the pandemic prevented any further activities.

Our webpage has been refreshed and is linked to the area meeting site.

Friends helped to arrange Food for Thought talks (as members of Broseley Churches Together) once the venue for the latter was opened for use again.

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

We continued to support the STAY housing project by donating packs of essential household items for new residents which they can take with them when they move on. Friends continue to donate money for this and one Friend has purchased and assembled the packs with help locally. Friends in Broseley have continued to help run the food bank there but we were still not collecting donation items, even from those present in person on Sundays. Many Friends gave to their local food banks.

Other Friends were active in a refugee group, organising a walk and picnic lunch for them in Ironbridge during the summer. Work continued on the Wellington Peace Garden and with Telford Interfaith Council (delivering food boxes and Christmas dinners).

(4) Funding our concerns

During 2021, our special collections were for The Howard League for Penal Reform, Telford Samaritans, Quaker Congo Partnership UK and the Refugee Centre in Wolverhampton. While we were unable to collect cash, we provided Friends with the information needed so that they could donate direct to these charities.

As a Meeting, we subscribed to Broseley Churches Together.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

During 2021 our Pastoral Care Friends asked 3 more people to join the team and to function together, which they have done, using more talents in the service of the Meeting.

We held a short memorial meeting for George Evans on his birthday (25th June) at the Peace Garden in Wellington. We were prevented by pandemic rules from holding any other memorial meetings this year.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

During the early part of 2021 we were still meeting online only while maintaining good contact with the managers of Meeting Point House so that, when allowed we were able to resume meetings in person from September onwards. At first not all of the building was open for hire and we were encouraged to use a room on the ground floor to save heating all the building. We have found the 'old chapel' (as it was) very much to our liking and much quieter than our old room on the first floor.

We have remained in contact with Meeting Point trustees through our representative, who is also an Area Meeting trustee.

Our licence to use premises in Meeting Point House is due for renewal in 2025 at the latest so we have been active with managers to explore ways of doing this which are acceptable to them as well as to ourselves, before drawing up a legal agreement with our area meeting trustees.

We hope to be able to move our notice boards, books etc to the room we are at present using early in 2022.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

Continuing to hold our meetings as 'blended' undoubtedly saves some costs of travel, heating and lighting. We see no change in this arrangement for the foreseeable future.

Individually and personally we try to make further changes in our lifestyles to try to help the country to reach the COP 26 requirements and save the planet.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Our Meeting made a donation to BYM funds in addition to individual donations. We continue to contribute to appeals for other Meeting Houses' repairs and building costs.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	No. Only appointed members of our Children and Young People's Committee do this work.
Obtaining references where appropriate	No. Only appointed members of our Children and Young People's Committee do this work.
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	No

Each member of our Children and Young Peoples Committee has clearance from the DBS scheme. These Friends are appointed through the usual Quaker nomination process so application forms and references are not felt to be needed or appropriate. Health and Safety regulations are the responsibility of Meeting Point House.

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We do not provide training but we encourage and support members of our CYP Committee to make use of materials provided by Britain Yearly Meeting and to attend relevant support meetings, courses and conferences.

Our overall programme is decided by the CYP Committee. It is modified as needed to be appropriate for whichever young people attend on any particular Sunday. Each session is planned by the pair of workers who will run the session. If a new worker joins the group, s/he will work initially with a more experienced person.

Shrewsbury Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

- We maintained an online worshipping presence on a weekly basis during second lockdown when we were not allowed to meet in person.
- We joined with Church Stretton meeting each Sunday throughout the lockdown period to ensure an adequate number of Friends were able to worship together. This arrangement continued until Church Stretton were able to hold their in-person Meetings again.
- Since lock down finished, we have held weekly blended Meetings for Worship which have become our usual way of worship. This has enabled us to meet together even when some have prevented by illness, weather difficulties or traffic issues.
- Social events have been much appreciated by Friends in the Meeting including a Summer Gathering.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

- Our Light Group has continued to meet monthly wherever possible, usually in person but occasionally on line as well

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

- Our Meeting continues to offer the use of the Meeting House for free to both the Syrian refugees and the self-harming support group. We also have links with our local community and offer low-cost rental to groups where their interests are in keeping with our testimonies

(4) Funding our concerns.

- Friends are sent a yearly reminder about the schedule and our treasurer also completes the paperwork to claim gift aid whenever possible possible.
- We give a monthly payment to the Food Hub and make annual donations to an agreed list of charities, both Quaker and those in our local area.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

- Our pastoral Friends have kept in regular contact with Friends despite the difficulties associated with the pandemic.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

- We have regularly inspected our building, even during the months when it was closed, and our cleaner and caretaker have continued to ensure that we have been COVID secure.
- Extensive improvements have been made in the garden to both the boundary fence and the general accessibility so that Friends are able to enjoy spending time outside.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

- Our solar panels continue to generate a good deal of electricity which we are able to use to offset some of our energy costs.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

- Our rental income has been significantly reduced
- Contributions have been made to BYM by Friends in the Meeting.
- We have sufficient funds in our Meeting Account to ensure that we are able to maintain the fabric of the building and meet our regular outgoings.
- Our treasurer is looking towards a claim from our insurers for the lost income following the closures due to the pandemic.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	

Obtaining references where appropriate	
completing a criminal records disclosure	
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	

We currently do not have any children who attend our Meeting. We do have 4 Friends who have enhanced DBS checks and who have agreed to offer help and support in the event of children becoming a part of our Meeting again.

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

n/a

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes Yes yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	

Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	
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Additional checks were made before we opened after the second lockdown in March. Our premises committee reviewed all of their policies and updates them to take into account the changed circumstances.

Worcester Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

Throughout the last year, Meeting for Worship has been maintained and enabled through a mix of online only and blended meetings, depending on the legal position at the time. This has been challenging sometimes due to the lack of professional equipment but, through goodwill, the meeting has continued and provided an opportunity for fellowship for those who were isolating for health reasons and would otherwise have been unable to physically attend meetings.

Attendance has fluctuated but typically been around 17 to 20 people. One advantage of this approach has been that some members have been able to participate in MFW from outside of the area, including some Friends who have been away visiting family members and others, with links to the Worcester Meeting, who are currently living abroad. Unfortunately the meeting was not able to maintain Wednesday meetings but Friends were able to participate in the online meetings arranged by Colin Billet and actual meetings in Worcester have been reintroduced in early 2022.

One limitation of the online/blended approach has been that it has been difficult to arrange study groups after meetings but early after the restrictions were lifted an uplifting event was held to explore ministry, how this supports the life of the meeting and how to encourage this in the different environment of blended meetings. Another workshop was successfully held to discuss the discernment.

Other activities which strengthened the life of the meeting in 2021, and provided an opportunity to meet safely at a time when Government guidelines advised against indoor large gatherings, included a number of garden parties outside the Meeting House, an online 'show and tell' discussion and the celebration of the wedding of Gill Pennington and Simon Knight.

Again, owing to the pandemic, there have been no children attending Meeting since 2020.

Work is underway to improve the quality of blended meetings and to make active participation simpler, as it's recognised that these have an ongoing value in connecting members who cannot easily attend meetings for reasons other than the Covid pandemic.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

We continue to produce a Newsletter three times a year. It is distributed within the Meeting as well as copies being available for visitors to take away.

Notices are emailed to all those who are on our list, as and when they are given to the Clerks. Paper copies are provided for those not on email. We continue to make available the minutes for both Local and Area Meeting for Worship for Business, and keep copies in the Clerks Information File held in the Meeting House.

Where permitted, during the pandemic, the meeting has continued its approach of letting rooms in the meeting house to community and other local groups whose activity's support the community and are in line with core Quaker values and is seeking to develop this through 2022. This has included a number of poetry events in support of Amnesty International and in remembrance of the Holocaust.

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

Donations to external charities did not continue into 2021 with the exception of a donation to BYM in December. Individual giving continued with Friends supporting the Foodbank, Onside Advicay (through use of Café Mix), Worcestershire Association of Carers and Ubuntu Uganda, among others.

(4) Funding our concerns

Due to the intermittent use of the meeting house, and the practical impact this had on collecting for local charities during 2021, the funding of concerns has been left as a matter for Friends to arrange personally through direct donations as they see fit. We hope to restart the regular collection of funds for good causes in 2022, as more regular use is made of the meeting house.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Elders and Overseers have met regularly and keep a loving watch on the Meeting. Also, in accordance with Advices and Queries 1.05 'Duty of Reading' a paragraph from Advices and Queries is read out and recorded each month at Sunday Meeting for Worship (MfWfB).

Elders and Overseers have encouraged friends to complete a Funeral Wishes form.

(6) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Our Resident Friend has continued to extend a friendly welcome to users of our Meeting House when it has been possible. Unfortunately due to Government restrictions use of the Meeting House has been greatly restricted

The Meeting House and garden are well maintained and we are thankful for the work of our cleaner and contract gardener. Those using the Meeting house very often spend time in the quiet of our garden.

(7) Sustainability

As part of the requirement to replace the current meeting house boiler we have sought advice from expert heating engineers with sustainability of the solution as one of the criteria for consideration of options.

(8) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

In addition trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions?

(9) Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by?

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helpers form	Yes
Obtaining references where appropriate	No – there has been no need to do this over the last year
Completing a DBS disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	Yes

(10) Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We have a convener of Children's Meeting who provides guidance.

(11) For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or No	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	

Malvern Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

This has been another challenging year, as it has for all Meetings, due to the Covid pandemic. Meetings for Worship have been held in some form every week, initially by Zoom only. The Meeting House reopened for Meetings for Worship in April, and Meetings for Worship continued also on Zoom until the end of June. Occasional Meetings for Worship by Zoom resumed in December. Weekly emails have been sent to all Members and Attenders keeping them informed about the Meeting and related events.

'Little Friends' meetings for young children are held on the first Sunday of each month and prove to be a valuable resource for a couple of families who find Sunday morning attendance is not easy, as well as being a means of outreach to a few families who do not link with us in any other way.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

There have been no discussion groups in 2021 due to the pandemic. Various local Friends have taken the opportunity for on-line Woodbrooke courses and QPSW workshops, increasing their awareness of Quaker thought and practice.

We have actively supported the Active Peace Education in Malvern Programmes. As a result of this in the autumn term peace education programmes were delivered in four local schools. These included "All are Welcome" about refugees, "Six Hours to Save the World", and "Celebrating our Differences and Enjoying our Similarities". All have been very well received, and excellent evaluations received. 110 children completed and took home the work books we have produced to reinforce the learning in the classroom.

Malvern Quakers have been involved in a number of public witnesses during the year, namely:

- A vigil on International Yemen Day on January 25 at the entrance to QinetiQ in Malvern, who have a partnership arrangement with Saudi

Arabia (implicit in air strikes in the Yemen). A wreath of white poppies was laid.

- In the run up to COP26, a few of us joined the staged walk up to Glasgow joining other 'pilgrims' for the Tewkesbury to Upton section.
- We were present at Hiroshima Memorial Day, hosted by Malvern Priory.
- Malvern Individuals for Peace (founded by a Malvern Quaker) joined with a branch of the Three Counties Campaign Against Arms Trade, Peace Pledge Union and many other peace groups to protest against the 2021 3CDSE 'Defence and Security Expo' at the Three Counties Showground on November 4th.
- White poppy wreaths were laid at the above event and also during the annual Remembrance ceremony, at which Quakers are now an established presence.

We have supported the Everyone+ initiative at Tewksbury School by providing personal letters of support as well as financial assistance.

An article about Malvern Quaker Meeting was included in the Newsletter of Lyttelton Well, the Christian Outreach Centre in Malvern.

Malvern Quakers have been involved in the Zoom Meetings / Services of Churches Together Malvern and The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity

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

A member of our meeting has a long-standing connection with Long Lartin high security

prison, joining their 'Silence Inside' meetings for worship and writing monthly to members of this group during their pandemic restrictions.

We have made grants during 2021 totalling £3,500, including to Malvern Welcomes, Malvern Food Bank, BRQCEA (Quakers in Europe), Pity of War Memorial and Quaker Mental Health Fund.

We continue to support the relief of suffering through our Special Collections for various charities, for example the Lyttelton Well Counselling Service, Farmers Overseas Action Group, Children of Chernobyl and local families in need.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Our contributions by Malvern Friends and Attenders have increased this year. Our letting income has been severely affected by the pandemic. We are applying via the Area Meeting application to our insurers for loss of lettings income. Our biggest expenditure has been to our Active Peace Education Project in local schools using monies from a legacy for Quaker work in the Malvern Area.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Pastoral Care Friends have met monthly to survey the needs of members and attenders,

and to keep in touch with those in their groups. A successful Zoom Social event was held in March.

Several new attenders have been welcomed to our Meeting in the autumn.

Around twenty of our group have participated in a Restoring Relations process, in varying numbers of small group sessions by Zoom, with the aims of increasing understanding, seeking to build trust and strengthening our community generally. The final session brought a larger group together with three of the RR facilitators; and a residential weekend will be held in March, at Holland House, to further the same aims.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

The Meeting House Committee ensures that the Meeting House is well maintained.

In November it was agreed that internet access be installed at the Meeting House.

We have for many years used entirely 'green' electricity.

Following consideration of ways to improve the environmental performance of the heating system, destratification fans have been installed.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

The Meeting has a Clerking Team, who share the roles of internal and external communications, and Clerking Meetings for Worship for Business. These have been held on Zoom throughout 2021.

We donate regularly to BYM. These contributions are kept under review and we hope to increase donations in 2022. Friends have also been encouraged to contribute individually, and the presentation from Friends House was shared at the Business Meeting in March.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	N/A. See below
Obtaining references where	N/A. See below appropriate
Completing a criminal records	Yes - three more people have gained DBS disclosure
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	N/A See Below

At Little Friends the children are always accompanied by a parent or responsible adult and in school the class teacher is in overall responsibility. Therefore we are never responsible for the children's safety and wellbeing.

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

The leaders of Little Friends are both experienced teachers, Advanced DBS holders, food handlers certificates. Further training not required at present.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or No
Accident book	Yes
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes
Health and Safety policy reviewed	Yes
Warning signs in place	Yes

Conditions of use for hirers

Yes

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

	NOTES	1 Unrestricted AM Central Funds	2 3 Unrestricted Local Funds	4 Total Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
Incoming Resources								
Donations, legacies, and similar		1,305	36,325		333		37,963	48,944
Income from activities to generate funds	5		8,400				8,400	8,817
Investment income		0	3,260				3,260	5,860
Quaker Activities			0				0	80
Other Income			3,092				3,092	2,094
Total incoming resources		1,305	51,077	52,382	333		52,715	65,795
Resources expended								
Costs of Quaker activities		1,447	15,065		571		17,084	4,984
Grants and donations		204	10,968				11,172	33,673
Costs of generating funds			9,948				9,948	47,125
Support Costs	6	419	18,979				19,398	2,556
Governance		5,241	1,461				6,702	2,607
Total resources expended		7,312	56,420	63,732	571		64,303	90,945
Net incoming resources before transfers		-6,007	-5,343	-11,349	-238		-11,587	-25,150
Transfers								
Transfers between funds (Quota)	7	7,000	-7,000				0	0
Other Transfers between Meetings								0
Other transfers								0
Net incoming resources before revaluations		993	-12,343	-11,349	-238		-11,587	-25,150
Gains (losses) on investments			10,618				10,618	6,316
Net movement in funds		993	-1,725	-732	-238		-970	-18,834
Revaluation of Property								
Total funds brought forward, 1 January	9	810,582	260,774		892		1,072,248	1,092,221
Prior year adjustment			2				1	-1,140
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		811,575	259,051	1,070,626	654		1,071,279	1,072,247
These balances are held as:								
Total fixed assets		800,000	95,311				895,311	900,548
Net current assets		11,576	163,740		653		175,969	171,699
Net assets		811,576	259,051	1,070,626	653		1,071,279	1,072,247
Acting as agent								
B/Fwd			1,573				1,573	1,719
In	8		6,657				6,657	2,987
Out	8		7,391				7,391	2,880
C/Fwd		0	839	839	0		839	1,826

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2021

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total 2021	Total 2020
		Central	Local	Special		
		1	2 3	4		
Fixed assets						
Land and buildings	9	800,000.00			800,000.00	800,000.00
Fixtures and fittings					0.00	0.00
Investments			95,310.68		95,310.68	100,548.00
Total fixed assets		800,000.00	95,310.68	0.00	895,310.68	900,548.00
Current assets						
Debtors	10		1,853.00		1,853.00	1,650.00
Short term deposits		1,380.00	116,450.26		117,830.26	107,332.00
Cash at bank and in hand		10,195.70	45,979.10	653.00	56,827.80	67,598.00
Total current assets		11,575.70	164,282.36	653.00	176,511.06	176,579.00
Current liabilities						
Creditors within one year	11		542.00		542.00	4,880.00
Creditors after one year			0.00		0.00	0.00
Net current assets		11,575.70	163,740.36	653.00	175,969.06	171,699.00
Net assets		811,575.70	259,051.04	653.00	1,071,279.74	1,072,247.00

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1. Unrestricted funds, the centrally managed accounts

Financial Activities for the year ended December 31 2021

Incoming Resources	Notes	Unrestricted General	Designated Extension	Total 2021	Total 2020
Contributions (and tax reclaimed)		1305.00		1305.00	3056.00
Bank interest on deposits					5.00
Dividends on shares, etc.		0.26		0.26	2456.00
Total Incoming Resources before transfers		1305.26	0.00	1305.26	5517.00
Total Incoming Resources		1305.26	0.00	1305.26	5517.00
Resources Expended					
Costs of Quaker activities					
Children and young people	1	900.00		900.00	
Committees and conferences	2	345.00		345.00	1592.00
BYM Gathering				0.00	
Refund of expenses to Trustees				0.00	
Refund of expenses to Officers, etc.		22.45		22.45	76.00
Quaker Quest					
Child Protection					
Other costs of Quaker activities	3	179.99		179.99	22.00
Total costs of Quaker activities		1447.44	0.00	1447.44	1690.00
Grants, subscriptions, donations					
... to BYM					5500.00
... to ecumenical and interfaith bodies					
.... Woodbrooke					1000.00
.... CCPAS/Thirty One Eight	4	129.00		129.00	120.00
.... To Individuals					
YFGM	5	75.00		75.00	
Total costs of grants, etc		204.00	0.00	204.00	6620.00
Governance and Support costs					
Insurance excess paid					
Insurance - AM wide		1983.48		1983.48	1694.00
Professional fees		3258.00		3258.00	788.00
Trustee meetings					
General support costs		418.99		418.99	208.00
Total costs of support and governance		5660.47	0.00	5660.47	2690.00
Total Resources Expended before transfers		7311.91	0.00	7311.91	11000.00
Transfers to and from Local Meetings					
Receipt of Quotas from Local Meetings		-7000.00		-7000.00	-7440.00
Donations from LM's					-638.00
Total Transfers to Local Meetings		-7000.00	0.00	-7000.00	-8078.00
Prior Year Adjustments					0.00
Total resources expended		311.91	0.00	311.91	2922.00
Revaluation of Property					
Net movement in funds		993.35	0.00	993.35	2595.00
Total funds brought forward 1 January		803919.35	6663.00	810582.35	807987.00
Total funds carried forward 31 December		804912.70	6663.00	811575.70	810582.00
These funds were held as follows:					
Fixed Assets					
Property				800000.00	800000.00
Current Assets					
COIF deposit account				1380.00	1380.00
Lloyds TSB current account				10195.70	9202.00
				11575.70	10582.00
less Current Liabilities					
Creditor					
Net current assets				11575.70	10582.00
Total Assets				811575.70	810582.00

Annotations to Note 1:

- 1.1 Costs of Children and Young People from the Area attending Summer School etc
- 1.2 Costs of attending committees and conferences and training for roles in our AM are charged under this heading, together with any contributions made by AM towards courses and activities undertaken by Members and Attenders to develop theirs and the Meeting's spiritual lives.
- 1.3 Other Quaker activities include printing for the Area Meeting and the cost of the gifted book when Friends come into membership
- 1.4 The cost of annual registration with C.C.P.A.S to meet our responsibilities for the care and protection of children.
- 1.5 Donation to YFGM in lieu of training provided by them for a members Fundraising Training

Financial Report on the Centrally Managed Accounts

The General Fund is intended to meet the normal running expenses of the Area Meeting, together with donations to Britain Yearly Meeting and other Quaker Concerns as determined by Area Meeting.

The amount of Grants and Donations we made in 2021 is lower, partly as we made extra grants and donations last year as we had less outgoings due to the pandemic but also because we did not make our annual donation to BYM in 2021. This is because we were back in national lockdown in early 2021 and Friends House had no one available to cash it at their end. It was suggested that we wait and send a larger donation in 2022.

A similar issue occurred with sending a donation to JYM in lieu of us having anyone who could go from our area, the Children, Young People and Families team suggested we send the donation in 2022 when their staff were back in the office at Friends House. The option of an officer of the Area Meeting making a online banking payment and being reimbursed was considered but dismissed for the time being due to Friends House reassurance that no young person would miss out on a place due to a lack of our donation.

The General Fund income was boosted in 2021 by donations totalling for £1305. The quota brought in £7000, down from 2020 due to the laying down of Wem Local Meeting.

The General Fund includes the value of properties owned by the Area Meeting. These were valued in 2019, not including Worcester Meeting House, which is separately owned by Worcestershire Friends Charity. The fixed assets of the Area Meeting centrally amount to 800,000. The net current assets, across both the General Fund and the Extension Fund, amounted to £11575 (previous year £10582).

The current assets are sufficient to cover the annual level of expenditure at 2021 levels.

The greater part of the Extension Fund derives from a gift by two members of the Area Meeting in 1965. In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the income is normally designated for projects or to pay for courses or conferences, which will strengthen the spiritual life of our Meeting. There was no expenditure from the Extension Fund in 2021, it appears Friends have either been unaware of the availability of the Extension Fund and/or have not chosen to undertake any Spiritual Courses due to the continuing nature of the pandemic. The income to the Extension Fund normally amounts to just under £3000 per year and used to be paid early in the year, it was not paid at all in 2021. Due to the lack of movement in either direction we should have sufficient resources for 2022. The Extension Fund income is being followed up by the Treasurer.

Note 2. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)
Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2021

								Total	Total	
	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Wem	Worcester	2,021	2,020
Incoming Resources										
Donations, legacies, and similar		4,599	1,352	6,954	5,555	6,611	0	11,255	36,325	45,395
Income from activities to generate funds		2,467		1,032	795			4,106	8,400	8,817
Investment income		174		2,564	520			3	3,260	3,399
Quaker Activities									0	80
Other income			1,276	75	1,701	40			3,092	2,094
Total incoming resources		7,239	2,628	10,625	8,570	6,651	0	15,364	51,077	59,785
Resources expended										
Costs of Quaker activities				10,723	175	391		3,776	15,065	3,050
Grants and donations		100	2,009	5,535	850	2,150	324		10,968	27,053
Premises and paid employees		3,392		6,142	8,676	769			18,979	47,125
Costs of generating funds				0				9,948	9,948	1,560
Management and administration		193	245	806		217			1,461	913
Total resources expended		3,685	2,254	23,205	9,700	3,527	324	13,724	56,420	79,701
Net incoming resources before transfers		3,554	374	-12,581	-1,130	3,125	-324	1,640	-5,343	-19,916
Transfers										
Transfers to AM (quota)		-1,200	-400	-1,240	-1,400	-1,320	0	-1,440	-7,000	-7,440
Transfers from Restricted Funds										-638
Other transfers										
Net incoming resources before revaluations		2,354	-26	-13,821	-2,530	1,805	-324	200	-12,343	-27,994
Gains (losses) on investments				10,051	567				10,618	6,316
Net movement in funds		2,354	-26	-3,770	-1,963	1,805	-324	200	-1,725	-21,678
Total funds brought forward, 1 Jan		31,575	12,915	107,010	63,587	10,730	324	34,632	260,774	283,591
Prior year adjustment						1			0	-1,140
Total funds carried forward, 31 Dec		33,929	12,889	103,240	61,624	12,536	0	34,832	259,050	260,773
These balances are held as:										
Total fixed assets				95,311					95,311	100,548
Net current assets		33,929	12,889	7,929	61,624	12,536	0	34,832	163,740	160,225
Net assets		33,929	12,889	103,240	61,624	12,536	0	34,832	259,051	260,773

Note 3. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)
Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2021

								Total	
	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Worcester	2021	2020
Total fixed assets									
Land and Buildings								0	0
Fixtures and Fittings								0	0
Investments				95,311				95,311	100,548
Total Fixed Assets		0	0	95,311	0	0	0	95,311	100,548
Current Assets									
Debtors		16			415		1,422	1,853	1,650
Short term deposits		26,155		5,166	55,475	2,896	26,758	116,450	107,332
Cash at bank and in hand		7,759	12,889	2,834	5,733	9,872	6,892	45,979	56,124
Total Current Assets		33,929	12,889	8,000	61,624	12,768	35,072	164,282	165,105
Current Liabilities									
Creditors within one year				71		231	240	542	4,880
Creditors after one year								0	0
Total Current Liabilities		0	0	71	0	231	240	542	4,880
Net Current Assets		33,929	12,889	7,929	61,624	12,537	34,832	163,740	160,225
Net Assets		33,929	12,889	103,240	61,624	12,537	34,832	259,051	260,773

Note 4. Restricted Funds

We only have one restricted fund. Friends in Telford Meeting give money to provide “starter packs”, which are given to homeless young people when a home is found for them by the STAY project. The money is held in a fund by Telford meeting and only spent when starter packs are bought. This money is only available for the purpose for which it was given.

Note 5. Activities to Generate Funds

Most of this income came from lettings of premises. Lettings income is still down compared to pre 2020 levels. Some meetings are not taking as many bookings and some groups have stopped meeting in person.

An insurance claim pay-out will be made in 2022 to cover some of our losses of income due to the pandemic.

YEAR	BEWDLEY	MALVERN	SHREWSBURY	WORCESTER
2019	3528	6310	12062	8471
2020	1200	2931	1990	2696
2021	2467	1032	795	4106

Note 6: Support Costs

These include expenditure on services such as caretaking, casual maintenance, warden and bookkeeping, as well as costs such as rent and maintenance charges for meetings without meeting houses and insurance, utility bills and sundry building maintenance for meetings with meeting houses. This expenditure has increased from 2020 but is not near pre-pandemic level.

Note 7: Transfers between funds

This consists of transfers from Local Meeting accounts to the Area Meeting account for the annual quota.

Note 8 - Acting as agent

	Central	Bewdley	Ch Stretton	Malvern	Shrewsbury	Telford	Worcester	Total 2021	Total 2020
Received									
Held over previously				607.79	127.00	838.00		1,572.79	1,719.00
Collections					4,956.75	1,700.00		6,656.75	2,987.00
	0.00	0.00	0.00	607.79	5,083.75	2,538.00	0.00	8,229.54	4,706.00
Paid Over					5,083.75	2,307.00		7,390.75	2,880.00
Net Held	0.00	0.00	0.00	607.79	0.00	231.00	0.00	838.79	1,826.00

The table above shows money collected by local meetings Acting as Agents. Bewdley, Church Stretton and Worcester meetings keep any special collections separate from their normal finances and do not act as agents

Note 9: Land and Buildings

The value of Worcester Friends Meeting House appears in the accounts of Worcester Friends Charity.

The values of Bewdley, Malvern and Shrewsbury Meeting Houses appear in the accounts of the Area Meeting. The Area Meeting Trustees act as Managing Trustees for these properties, with Friends Trusts Ltd. as custodian trustees. Local Meetings have been asked to update the insurance valuation with an actual valuation once every 5 years as part of their quinquennial survey, but all properties were professionally valued at the end of 2019 as follows:

Valuation of Property

Market values: £

Bewdley FMH 150,000
Malvern FMH 350,000
Shrewsbury FMH 300,000
Total **800,000**

Insurance (rebuild) values: £

Bewdley FMH 217,000
Malvern FMH 308,000
Shrewsbury FMH 350,000
Total **875,000**

Note 10: Debtors

Debtors are as follows

Bewdley LM	16.00
Shrewsbury LM	415.00
Worcester LM	1422.00

Total: 1853.00

Note 11: Creditors

Creditors are as follows (all payable withing one year)

Malvern LM	71.00
Telford LM	231.00
Worcester LM	240.00

Total: 542.00

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for accounting by Charities has been followed in so far as it is applicable to these accounts.

Income and expenditure

Accruals and prepayments have been included in the income and expenditure where the amounts are significant, and their inclusion will give greater clarity to the financial statements.

Contributions and grants

Contributions and grants are treated as income in the year in which they are received.

Transfers

Movements of money between funds are shown as transfers and consist of the Quota payable by local meetings to the area meeting, and any other voluntary transfers between meetings.

Interest, dividends, rents, and legacies

These are all taken into account when received and treated as income in the year.

Direct taxation

All the activities of the Area Meeting are charitable and therefore exempt from income tax, capital gains and inheritance tax. There are no trading profits.

Fund accounting

To differentiate how Funds can be used, they are categorized according to the following definitions:

Unrestricted: Funds which are freely available for any purpose of the Area Meeting. Designated Funds are a subcategory of these. They have been set aside for specific purposes, but they remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting which can change this purpose at any time.

Restricted: Funds which have been earmarked by the donor or testator for certain specific purposes.

Land and buildings

These consist of the meeting houses which are held for the furtherance of the Area Meeting's charitable objects. **See Note 9**

Investments

Investments are included at their market or estimated realizable value at 31 December.

Trustees remuneration

No Trustee received any remuneration in respect of service given during the year.

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

I report on the accounts of the Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting for the year ended 31st December 2021, which are set out on pages 1 to 7.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records; and
- to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have

not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:

Date:

Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

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Independent examiner's statement

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(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records; and
- to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act have

not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Date:

31/12/22

WORCESTERSHIRE AND SHROPSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING

England & Wales - Charity number 1175399

Accounts

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting Trustees
Annual Report and Accounts 2020



Charity Number 1175399
Friends Meeting House,
51 Arundel Drive, Worcester, Worcestershire, WR5 2HU
Email: davidbaker854@btinternet.com
Telephone: 01905 763806

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1. Officers during 2020

Clerking Team:

Lynda Prescott	Worcester Local Meeting
Martin Layton	Bewdley Local Meeting

Treasurer:

David Rolfe	Telford Local Meeting
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Assistant Clerk for Membership and Data Protection:

Colin Billett	Bewdley Local Meeting
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Area Meeting Trustees who served during 2020:

David Baker (Clerk)	Worcester Local Meeting
David Rolfe (Treasurer)	Telford Local Meeting
Marilyn Foxall	Bewdley Local Meeting
Christine Jones	Shrewsbury Local Meeting
Eoin McCarthy	Malvern Local Meeting

Custodian Trustee:

Friends Trusts Ltd., Registered Charity 237698
173-177 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Bankers to the Area Meeting held accounts:

TSB, Church Stretton Branch.

COIF Charity Funds, CCLA Investment Management Ltd. 80 Cheapside, London, EC2V 6DZ

In addition, each of the local constituent meetings of the Area Meeting has one or more bank accounts that they manage.

2. Information and Governance:

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Quaker Meeting began operating as a Registered Charity from 1st January 2014 as Charity number 1155482. With effect from 26th October 2017, it re-registered as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation number 1175399.

The Charity was established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes that derive from, or bear witness to, the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), within Worcestershire and Shropshire.

Quaker Faith & Practice, the book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting, governs the Area Meeting's affairs.

The Area Meeting appoints the Trustees of the charity following nominations from the Nominations Committee. These appointments are without financial remuneration.

The Annual Report recognises the requirement of Britain Yearly Meeting and the Charity Commission to outline the Public Benefit of the charity as indicated in Charity Commission publication April 2017 '*telling your story well: public benefit reporting by charities*'.

The template offered by Quaker Faith and Practice (5th Edition), Chapter 14, is used to compile this report.

2.1 Trustees normally meet four times a year. In 2020 the following items of business were considered, and details are available in the minutes of these meetings:

Dated: 8th February 2020

- i) Area Meeting Quota to Britain Yearly Meeting.
- ii) New Arrangements for Area Meetings.
- iii) Policy of payments from Area Meeting Funds.
- iv) Employee Survey.
- v) Data Protection Officers.
- vi) Licence agreement re: Meeting Point House.
- vii) Roles for the next triennium.

Dated: 13th June 2020

- i) Document re: Expenditure from Area Meeting Funds
- ii) 2019 Annual Reports
- iii) 2019 Accounts.
- iv) Salary, Pensions and Policy Documents.

Dated: 7th July 2020

This was a special meeting convened to discuss the holding of Meetings for Worship and the Hiring of Meeting Houses during the COVID-19 Pandemic Guidance for Local Meetings.

Dated: 29th October 2020

- i) Meeting for Worship in Wem – COVID risk assessment.
- ii) Distribution of funds to schools in Midnapore (West Bengal).

3. Public Benefit Achievements and Activities within the Area Meeting in 2020

3.1 Membership information for 2020

Tabular Statement

There were four new members recorded during the year, one by convincement and three by transfers in. One transfer out was recorded, and one member became no longer attached to a local meeting. There were eight deaths during the year. The net result is that total membership decreased by six from one hundred and eighty-five members to one hundred and seventy-nine members.

Name of Local Meeting	Men	Women	Other	Children	Total
BEWDLEY					
Members	12	18	0	0	30
Attenders	1	5	0	4	10
CHURCH STRETTON					
Members	3	7	0	0	10
Attenders	1	1	0	2	4
MALVERN					
Members	18	14	0	0	32
Attenders	14	12	0	0	26
SHREWSBURY					
Members	9	26	0	0	35
Attenders	8	18	0	2	28
TELFORD					
Members	9	25	0	0	34
Attenders	5	10	0	3	18
WEM					
Members	0	1	0	0	1
Attenders	1	1	0	0	2
WORCESTER					
Members	15	21	0	0	36
Attenders	12	9	0	2	23
UNATTACHED					
Members	0	1	0	0	1

3.2 Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker Meetings

This year (2020) has been challenging for everyone. In January and February, Local Meetings conducted their Meetings for Worship and Business as normal. By March we were living with the COVID-19 pandemic, Government guidelines, lockdowns, and restrictions, which tested our ingenuity and creativity in finding alternative ways by which to worship and conduct our business.

All our Local Meetings, apart from Wem, have continued to hold Sunday morning worship at 10.30 until 11.30 am, either online using Zoom, outdoors, or in person when permitted. Bewdley, Shrewsbury, Telford, and Worcester Meetings, have also held blended meetings. Every effort has been made to maintain worshipping communities by staying in touch with those Friends who have not felt comfortable enough to join on-line meetings during the lockdowns.

Elders and Pastoral Care Friends have ensured regular readings from Advices and Queries and Quaker Faith and Practice.

Bewdley, Church Stretton and Telford meetings have continued to involve their Children's Meetings in worship, either online or outdoors when in-door meetings were not permitted. Worcester's monthly Children's Meeting stopped after February 2020.

All our Local Meetings, except for Wem, have organised a range of online events to encourage all age interaction and strengthen the life of the Meeting. For details of these events see Local Meeting reports in the appendix.

There has been a regular Area Meeting (mid-week) Meeting for Worship held online.

3.3 Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society

We acknowledge that many of our usual activities were either postponed or reduced because of the restrictions of the pandemic. Local Meetings have nonetheless continued to organise a variety of discussions, workshops, and events, either outdoors or online. Details of these events can be seen in the Local Meeting reports in Appendix 1.

Local Meeting Friends have joined in Woodbrooke and Britain Yearly Meeting facilitated events online, which has increased awareness of Quaker thought and practice.

A Church Stretton Friend is convening a group of Friends from Wales and Southern Marches together with Meeting of Friends in Wales (Symud Ymlaen).

We piloted a website for one of our local meetings on the Quaker Meetings Network, as a step towards having an integrated family of websites, including one for Area Meeting.

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

Although the restrictions of the pandemic have curtailed some activities, Friends have continued to participate in many voluntary roles within their local communities.

The following are examples of Quaker service in action. Telford Local Meeting supported the STAY housing project. Church Stretton Friends invited a speaker from Quaker Service in Belfast to Engaging Issues. Malvern Friends have continued as active Prison Visitors when the pandemic regulations allowed. Bewdley Friends continue to be a collection point for clothes for refugees in Europe. 'The Worcester Grassroots Alliance' project has now been adopted by Area Meeting as a whole.

Wider participation is evidenced by Local Meeting Friends being appointed to central Quaker work at Britain Yearly Meeting.

For full details of the work being carried out by Local Meetings see Appendix 1.

3.5 Funding our Concerns

All Local Meetings have provided financial support as requested by Britain Yearly Meeting.

Local Meetings and Local Friends have donated to Quaker led charities and other charities of particular interest to Friends. These donations were made through special collections, subscriptions and/or standing orders.

3.6 Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Area Meeting discerned that it was appropriate to rename our Overseers as 'Pastoral Care Friends' and this was agreed at Area Meeting for Worship for Business on 7th November 2020.

The pandemic has increased the need and responsibility for providing care and keeping a watching brief on all Friends. Other Friends actively share in this care and try to ensure that no one is left out. A variety of methods has been used to remain in contact with Friends in need, such as, in person visits when appropriate, phone calls, letters and cards.

Bewdley Local Meeting have held regular, online, 'Time to Talk' sessions.

Fellowship of Healing groups have met in person, when and where appropriate, and in Spirit, throughout the lockdowns.

Specific ongoing assistance to Local Meetings is provided by Area Meeting hardship fund.

3.7 Maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Church Stretton, Telford and Wem Local Meetings do not have their own Meeting House.

Church Stretton Friends rent appropriate premises. Telford Friends hold a licence to worship in Meeting Point House (an ecumenical building). Wem did meet in a Friend's home.

Bewdley, Malvern, Shrewsbury and Worcester have Meeting Houses which are currently well maintained through a regular review of their condition.

During the pandemic lockdowns, our Meeting Houses have remained closed to in person meetings for worship. Only those rentals to special support groups, exempt from the COVID-19 restrictions, have continued during this time.

Bewdley Meeting House has a newly installed audio-visual system which has enabled zoom and blended Meetings for Worship to take place.

3.8 Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Area Meeting met nine times during 2020. Two Meetings were held in person at Worcester and Shrewsbury Meeting houses. The remaining seven meetings were held online on Zoom.

Britain Yearly Meeting Recording Clerk joined us for our online Area Meeting in May.

All Local Meetings had regular Meetings for Worship for Business.

Local Meetings had representatives on Area Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting committees.

3.9 Safeguarding and Health and Safety Policies

Trustees were satisfied that Area Meeting and constituent Local Meetings complied with their responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy.

In respect of fulfilling Local Meetings' duties under health and safety legislation, and COVID-19 restrictions, an apparent lack of compliance at one Local Meeting was raised by Trustees and was immediately addressed by Area Meeting.

3.10 Sustainability Considerations

Local Meetings are encouraged to act on the growing concern for the welfare of Planet Earth and to adopt sustainable practices where possible.

4 Financial Review

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting
Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

	NOTES	1	2	3	4	Total 2020	Total 2019
		Unrestricted AM Central Funds	Unrestricted Local Funds	Total Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds		
Incoming Resources							
Donations, legacies, and similar		3,056	45,395	48,451	493	48,944	46,405
Income from activities to generate funds	5		8,817	8,817		8,817	30,962
Investment income		2461	3,399	5,860		5,860	6,518
Quaker Activities			80	80		80	0
Other Income			2,094	2,094		2,094	2,765
Total incoming resources		5,517	59,785	65,302	493	65,795	86,650
Resources expended							
Costs of Quaker activities		1,690	3,050	4,740	244	4,984	6,960
Grants and donations		6,620	27,053	33,673		33,673	25,741
Costs of generating funds			47,125	47,125		47,125	43,403
Support Costs	6	996	1,560	2,556		2,556	8,183
Governance		1,694	913	2,607		2,607	4,364
Total resources expended		11,000	79,701	90,701	244	90,945	88,651
Net incoming resources before transfers		(5,483)	(19,916)	(25,399)	249	(25,150)	(2,001)
Transfers							
Transfers between funds (Quota)	7	7,440	(7,440)	0		0	0
Other Transfers between Meetings	7	638	(638)	0		0	0
Other transfers	7			0		0	0
Net incoming resources before revaluations		2,595	(27,994)	(25,399)	249	(25,150)	(2,001)
Gains (losses) on investments			6,316	6,316		6,316	14,019
Net movement in funds		2,595	(21,678)	(19,083)	249	(18,834)	12,018
Revaluation of Property							
Total funds brought forward, 1 January	9	807,987	283,591	1,091,578	643	1,092,221	1,980,985
Prior year adjustment			(1,140)	(1,140)		(1,140)	(2,168)
Total funds carried forward, 31 December		810,582	260,773	1,071,355	892	1,072,247	1,092,222
These balances are held as:							
Total fixed assets		800,000	100,548	900,548		900,548	899,232
Net current assets		10,582	160,225	170,807	892	171,699	192,990
Net assets		810,582	260,773	1,071,355	892	1,072,247	1,092,222
Acting as agent							
B/Fwd			1,719	1,719		1,719	
In	8		2,987	2,987		2,987	6,597
Out	8		2,880	2,880		2,880	4,878
C/Fwd		0	1,826	1,826	0	1,826	1,719

Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting

Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted	Total 2020	Total 2019
		Central	Local	Special		
Fixed assets		1	2 3	4		
Land and buildings	9	800,000			800,000	800,000
Fixtures and fittings					0	0
Investments			100,548		100,548	99,232
Total fixed assets		800,000	100,548	0	900,548	899,232
Current assets						
Debtors	10		1,650		1,650	4,233
Short term deposits			107,332		107,332	127,592
Cash at bank and in hand		10,582	56,124	892	67,598	64,841
Total current assets		10,582	165,105	892	176,579	196,666
Current liabilities						
Creditors within one year	11		4,880		4,880	3,676
Creditors after one year					0	0
Net current assets		10,582	160,225	892	171,699	192,990
Net assets		810,582	260,773	892	1,072,247	1,092,222

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

Note 1. Unrestricted funds, the centrally managed accounts

Financial Activities for the year ended December 31 2020

	Notes	Unrestricted General	Designated Extension	Total 2020	Total 2019
Incoming Resources					
Contributions (and tax reclaimed)		3,056		3,056	0
Bank interest on deposits			5	5	10
Dividends on shares, etc.			2,456	2,456	2,685
Total Incoming Resources before transfers		3,056	2,461	5,517	2,695
Total Incoming Resources		3,056	2,461	5,517	2,695
Resources Expended					
Costs of Quaker activities					
Children and young people				0	0
Committees and conferences	1	600	992	1,592	2,150
BYM Gathering				0	562
Refund of expenses to Trustees				0	0
Refund of expenses to Officers, etc.		76		76	168
Quaker Quest				0	0
Child Protection				0	0
Other costs of Quaker activities	3	22		22	20
Total costs of Quaker activities		698	992	1,690	2,900
Grants, subscriptions, donations					
... to BYM		5,500		5,500	2,000
... to ecumenical and interfaith bodies	4			0	0
.... Woodbrooke		1,000		1,000	0
.... CCPAS (thirty one eight)	2	120		120	120
.... To Individuals	5			0	0
				0	0
Total costs of grants, etc		6,620	0	6,620	2,120
Governance and Support costs					
Insurance excess paid				0	0
Insurance - AM wide		1,694		1,694	3,124
Professional fees		788		788	2,070
Trustee meetings				0	0
General support costs		208		208	320
Total costs of support and governance		2,690	0	2,690	5,514
Total Resources Expended before transfers		10,008	992	11,000	10,534
Transfers to and from Local Meetings					
Receipt of Quotas from Local Meetings		(7,440)		(7,440)	(7,040)
Donations from LM's		(638)		(638)	(2,000)
				0	0
Total Transfers to Local Meetings		(8,078)	0	(8,078)	(9,040)
Prior Year Adjustments				0	0
Total resources expended		1,930	992	2,922	1,494
Revaluation of Property				0	(898,613)
Net movement in funds		1,126	1,469	2,595	(897,413)
Total funds brought forward 1 January		802,793	5,194	807,987	1,705,400
Total funds carried forward 31 December		803,919	6,663	810,582	807,987
These funds were held as follows:					
Fixed Assets					
Property				800,000	800,000
Current Assets					
COIF deposit account				1,380	1,380
Lloyds current account				9,202	6,608
				10,582	7,988
less Current Liabilities					
Creditor					
Net current assets				10,582	7,988
Total Assets				810,582	807,988

Annotations to Note 1

- 1.1 Costs of attending committees and conferences and training for roles in our AM are charged under this heading, together with any contributions made by AM towards courses and activities undertaken by Members and Attenders to develop theirs and the Meeting's spiritual lives.
- 1.2 The cost of annual registration with C.C.P.A.S to meet our responsibilities for the care and protection of children.
- 1.3 Other costs of Quaker Activities include the purchase of some volumes of Quaker Faith and Practise or alternative books for distribution to new members.
- 1.4 Contributions to the Ecumenical Team Ministry in Telford and to Churches Together in Worcestershire and Shropshire.
- 1.5 Assistance to individual Friends in financial difficulties during the year..

Financial Report on the Centrally Managed Accounts

The General Fund is intended to meet the normal running expenses of the Area Meeting, together with donations to Britain Yearly Meeting and other Quaker Concerns as determined by Area Meeting.

Due mainly to the Covid-19 pandemic, this year saw a great reduction in the number of Friends attending training courses. To compensate for this, we gave donations to Woodbrooke and BYM to make up for their loss of income. No increase in quota was necessary to meet our costs. We made an Area Meeting grant to Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) early this year, as part of our regular practice of making a donation to BYM early in the year from any surplus of funds from the previous year. Friends also make contributions to BYM individually, as do some local meetings.

The centrally managed General Fund income was boosted this year by a legacy of £3000. The quota brought in £7440 (up slightly from the previous year's figure). Shrewsbury Meeting donated £638.

The General Fund includes the value of the properties owned by the Area Meeting. In 2019 we had these professionally valued and the values were determined to be much lower than we were carrying forward in our Insurance valuations. The values do not include Worcester Meeting House, which is separately owned by Worcestershire Friends Charity. There has been some concern expressed by Friends that our properties are valued too low. The trustees are considering this currently in light of a revaluation of Malvern Meeting House. Any uplift in values will be reflected in the accounts for 2021, as new figures were not available at the end of 2020. The fixed assets of the Area Meeting centrally amount to 800,000 which is all held in property and therefore not available to meet our ongoing expenditure. The net current assets, across both the General Fund and the Extension Fund, amounted to £10582 (previous year £7988). The uplift is due to the legacy of £3000. The current assets are sufficient to cover the annual level of expenditure at 2020 levels.

The greater part of the income of the Extension Fund derives from a gift by two members of the Area Meeting in 1965. In accordance with the wishes of the donors, the income is normally designated for projects or to pay for courses or conferences, which will strengthen the spiritual life of our Meeting. The expenditure from the Extension Fund was £922, which is significantly down on the previous year as fewer Friends went on Spiritual Courses due to the pandemic. The income to the Extension Fund normally amounts to just under £3,000 per year, and used to be paid early in the year, but seems to get later and later each year, and in 2020 arrived at the end of the year. We should have sufficient resources for 2021.

4 Financial Review

Note 2. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)

Statement of Financial Activities for the Year ended 31st December 2020

									Total	Total
	Notes	Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Wem	Worcester	2020	2019
Incoming Resources										
Donations, legacies, and similar		6,123	1,205	10,521	9,827	7,130	270	10,319	45,395	45,412
Income from activities to generate funds		1,200		2,931	1,990			2,696	8,817	30,962
Investment income		188		2,613	486	4		107	3,399	3,823
Quaker Activities								80	80	0
Other income		347			1,747				2,094	2,765
Total incoming resources		7,858	1,205	16,065	14,050	7,134	270	13,202	59,784	82,962
Resources expended										
Costs of Quaker activities		90	1,294	846	321	285		215	3,050	3,293
Grants and donations		1,110	300	5,050	9,293	2,409	120	8,771	27,053	23,621
Premises and paid employees		7,120	253	12,681	8,706	645		17,721	47,125	43,403
Costs of generating funds				1,560					1,560	5,793
Management and administration			173	72		338		330	913	1,240
Total resources expended		8,320	2,020	20,208	18,320	3,677	120	27,037	79,701	77,350
Net incoming resources before transfers		(461)	(815)	(4,143)	(4,269)	3,457	150	(13,835)	(19,917)	5,612
Transfers										
Transfers to AM (quota)		(1,240)	(360)	(1,360)	(1,560)	(1,400)	(80)	(1,440)	(7,440)	(7,040)
Transfers from Restricted Funds									0	0
Other transfers					(638)				(638)	(2,000)
Net incoming resources before revaluations		(1,701)	(1,175)	(5,503)	(6,467)	2,057	70	(15,275)	(27,994)	(3,428)
Gains (losses) on investments				6,550	(235)				6,316	14,019
Net movement in funds		(1,701)	(1,175)	1,047	(6,702)	2,057	70	(15,275)	(21,678)	10,591
Total funds brought forward, 1 Jan		33,276	14,090	107,103	70,289	8,673	254	49,906	283,591	275,169
Prior year adjustment				(1,140)					(1,140)	(2,169)
Total funds carried forward, 31 Dec		31,575	12,915	107,010	63,587	10,730	324	34,631	260,773	283,591
These balances are held as:										
Total fixed assets				95,260	5,288				100,548	99,232
Net current assets		31,575	12,915	11,750	58,299	10,730	324	34,631	160,225	184,359
Net assets		31,575	12,915	107,010	63,587	10,730	324	34,631	260,773	283,591

4 Financial Review

Note 3. Local Unrestricted Funds (designated)

Balance Sheet Summary as at 31st December 2020

	Notes								Total	
		Bewdley	Church Stretton	Malvern	Shrews'y	Telford	Wem	Worcester	2020	2019
Total fixed assets										
Land and Buildings									0	0
Fixtures and Fittings									0	0
Investments				95,260	5,288				100,548	99,232
Total Fixed Assets		0	0	95,260	5,288	0	0	0	100,548	99,232
Current Assets										
Debtors					914			736	1,650	4,233
Short term deposits		25,981		2,603	49,101	2,892		26,755	107,332	126,212
Cash at bank and in hand		5,594	12,915	11,382	8,411	8,673	324	8,824	56,124	57,590
Total Current Assets		31,575	12,915	13,984	58,426	11,565	324	36,315	165,105	188,035
Current Liabilities										
Creditors within one year				2,234	127	835		1,684	4,880	3,676
Creditors after one year									0	0
Total Current Liabilities		0	0	2,234	127	835	0	1,684	4,880	3,676
Net Current Assets		31,575	12,915	11,750	58,299	10,730	324	34,631	160,225	184,359
Net Assets		31,575	12,915	107,010	63,587	10,730	324	34,631	260,773	283,591

Note 4 Restricted Funds

We only have one restricted fund. Friends in Telford Meeting give money to provide “starter packs”, which are given to homeless young people when a home is found for them by the STAY project. The money is held in a fund by Telford meeting and only spent when starter packs are bought. This money is only available for the purpose for which it was given.

Note 5. Activities to Generate Funds

Most of this income came from the letting of premises. Due to the pandemic the Meeting Houses were empty for most of the year and so income was greatly reduced. The figures were: Bewdley £1200; Malvern £2931; Shrewsbury £1990; Worcester £2,696. This is huge decrease on the previous year.

Note 6. Support costs

These include expenditure on services such as caretaking, casual maintenance, warden and bookkeeping, as well as costs such as rent and maintenance charges for meetings without meeting houses and insurance, utility bills and sundry building maintenance for meetings with meeting houses.

Note 7. Transfers between funds

These consist of 2 elements:

- a. Transfers of Quota from Local Meetings to Area Meeting.
- b. Transfers of donations between Local Meetings and Area Meeting.

4 Financial Review

Note 8 - Acting as agent

	Central	Bewdley	Ch Stretton	Malvern	Shrewsbury	Telford	Wem	Worcester	Total 2020	2019
Received										
Held over previously				608	209	569		333	1,719	484
Collections					241	2,332		414	2,987	6,113
	0	0	0	608	450	2,901	0	747	4,706	6,597
Paid Over					323	2,066		491	2,880	4,878
Net Held	0	0	0	608	127	835	0	256	1,826	1,719

The table above shows money collected by local meetings Acting as Agents. Bewdley, Church Stretton, and Wem Meetings keep any special collections completely separate from their normal finances and do not “Act as Agents”.

Note 9. Land and Buildings

The Value of Worcester Friends Meeting House appears in the accounts of Worcestershire Friends Charity.

The values of Bewdley, Malvern and Shrewsbury Meeting Houses appear in the accounts of the Area Meeting. The Area Meeting Trustees act as Managing Trustees for these properties, with Friends Trusts Ltd. as custodian trustees. Local Meetings have been asked to update the insurance valuation with an actual valuation once every 5 years as part of their quinquennial survey, but all properties were professionally valued at the end of 2019 as follows:

Valuation of Property

Market values:	£
Bewdley FMH	150,000
Malvern FMH	350,000
Shrewsbury FMH	<u>300,000</u>
Total	<u>800,000</u>

Insurance (rebuild) values:	£
Bewdley FMH	217,000
Malvern FMH	308,000
Shrewsbury FMH	<u>350,000</u>
Total	<u>875,000</u>

Note 10. Debtors

Debtors are as follows:

Shrewsbury QM	£914
Worcester QM	<u>£736</u>
	<u>£1650</u>

Note 11. Creditors

Creditors are as follows:

	£
Malvern QM	2234
Shrewsbury	127
Telford QM	835
Worcester	<u>1684</u>
	<u>4880</u>

All creditors are payable within one year

ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Basis of accounting

The Statement of Recommended Practice (SORP) for accounting by Charities has been followed in so far as it is applicable to these accounts.

Income and expenditure

Accruals and prepayments have been included in the income and expenditure where the amounts are significant and their inclusion will give greater clarity to the financial statements.

Contributions and grants

Contributions and grants are treated as income in the year in which they are received.

Transfers

Movements of money between funds are shown as transfers, and consist of the Quota payable by local meetings to the area meeting, and any other voluntary transfers between meetings.

Interest, dividends, rents, and legacies

These are all taken into account when received and treated as income in the year.

Direct taxation

All the activities of the Area Meeting are charitable and therefore exempt from income tax, capital gains and inheritance tax. There are no trading profits.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate how Funds can be used, they are categorized according to the following definitions:

Unrestricted: Funds which are freely available for any purpose of the Area Meeting. Designated Funds are a subcategory of these. They have been set aside for specific purposes, but they remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting which can change this purpose at any time.

Restricted: Funds which have been earmarked by the donor or testator for certain specific purposes.

Land and buildings

These consist of the meeting houses which are held for the furtherance of the Area Meeting's charitable objects. **See Note 9**

Investments

Investments are included at their market or estimated realizable value at 31 December.

Trustees remuneration

No Trustee received any remuneration in respect of service given during the year.

**Independent Examiner's Report to the Members of
Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting**

I report on the accounts of the Worcestershire and Shropshire Area Meeting for the year ended 31st December 2020, which are set out on pages 1 to 10 .

Respective responsibilities of trustees and independent examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts. They consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention

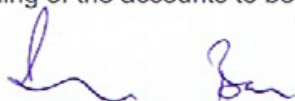
(1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements

- to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act;
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records; and
- to comply with the accounting requirements of the Act

have not been met; or

(2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Signed:



Russell BALL FCA

D E BALL & CO LTD

Date:

14/05/21

5 Appendices -Local Meeting's Annual Reports

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2020

Annual Report for Bewdley

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting.

Bewdley Friends and attenders have been fortunate in that everyone has access to internet technology, which has enabled us to continue to maintain contact and to worship as a community in challenging, creative and ultimately rewarding ways. When regulations permitted Premises Committee took diligent action to enable blended meetings to take place, with friends in the meeting house able to see and worship with those projected on the screen in Bewley. Online worship has allowed our young friends to be fully involved in the life of the meeting; each week they enter a break-out room and rejoin us for the final ten minutes, sharing their ministry with us. Once Friends had become more confident in using Zoom, they began to take up the opportunities offered for Worship, by Area Meeting in mid-week Worship, and in joining Woodbrooke and BYM facilitated events.

Elders and Pastoral Care Friends have ensured regular contact with those Friends who were unable to join in either on-line or in person meetings during this period of uncertainty.

Living adventurously and bringing Friends together in as many ways as possible, has continued to strengthen the Spiritual Life of Bewdley Meeting. Our seasonal gathering in December took place on Zoom, and was much enjoyed by all.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

In February we showed a film, 'The Accidental Anarchist', which drew an appreciative and interested audience, and hoped this would be the start of many such gatherings, but sadly not. Our meeting house, often a place for visitors to share the experience of stillness, has been closed for much of the year, but we have found ways, often outdoors, to meet when possible and also join the wider circle of Friends through the internet. Our online presence includes a website, but most activity is seen through Facebook. A small group continue to share Quaker experiences and messages from now and across our history, with 160+ followers.

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

Bewdley Friends continue to be a storage centre for donations of clothing for refugees that are collected and distributed to camps throughout Europe. We were able to continue collecting for the Kidderminster Food Bank for the first three months of the year, and Friends made direct contributions after lockdown.

(4) Funding our concerns.

The inability to meet in person seems to have much curtailed our giving, but we did make one significant donation during the year towards supporting a Kenyan Friend to continue to study at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education.

Friends have continued to meet in new ways in our smaller groups. Friends Fellowship of Healing meet in spirit, and find it quite refreshing to be still and quiet knowing a number of us are gathered to uphold friends. Groups nationwide and abroad hold the needs of their Meeting and individual members in the loving, recreative power of God; to be a channel for healing and so deepen the spiritual life of the Meeting. 'Time to Talk' has met regularly to support each other, and meet monthly. 'Over the time we have each listened to each other, valued the space to meet and share a multiple of things that have perhaps troubled us. We have shared hints and tips on possible ways that have helped some of us overcome problems from our experience, without being a 'fix it' group. This is all done in a safe confidential manner of friends.' Each time we meet we continue to develop our faith and practice.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

The new audio-visual system has been most usefully employed in providing zoom-only and combined meetings.

As parts of the building are listed we require further authorisation for works to be carried out. We have replaced the guttering in sympathy with the age of the building. The main door (from the garden) and casement were showing signs of deterioration and have been sympathetically replaced. The committee have been very active in ensuring the building complies with Covid-19 regulations in order for in-person worship to take place based on government guidelines. Our maintenance schedule showed a need for two new lights, one internal and one external. These have been duly replaced. The maintenance schedule for other appliances & systems is up to date. The oven in the kitchen has also been replaced as the existing one was unsafe. Disabled access into the garden has been improved by way of a ramp, together with hi-vis edging for the paving stones to delineate the pathway.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

An experiment to re-wild the garden is in progress. As individual friends we continue to monitor our own lifestyles and how they impact on the world.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Our treasurer's report will feed in to the AM treasurers report, but we do note that the inability to let the meeting house has led to a serious drop in income during 2020, as is the case with all meeting houses.

We are fortunate that all posts were filled in 2020, but do not go forward with this confidence.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting’s Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper’s form	Yes
Obtaining references where appropriate	Yes
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	Yes

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

Not formally, but quick action was taken as events developed. Early on in lockdown, a group of families and other Friends got together on Zoom to explore what we might do to support the children and young people during this strange and difficult time. We were away from our schools and our friends and we were looking for ways to connect and be together. The move to the internet has done much to give a greater voice to the children themselves: ‘Yes, these past months have had lots of challenges and difficulties, and we all miss seeing people face to face and being with Friends in meeting. But in lots of ways, we have also felt closer and more connected with our Quaker community and with each other than ever have before. It has been much easier to join things, to meet up and to have time together.’

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	

Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	Area Meeting trustees have provided this.
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2020

Annual Report for Church Stretton Local Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

As our contribution to the local churches together Lent offering, we arranged a series of half hour meetings for worship at the library. These were attended by a small but faithful group. Ten days before lockdown in March, the non-Quaker members of the group said they were beginning to feel uncomfortable meeting physically and would it be possible to meet online. John Dennison and Lesley Richards worked together to learn about Zoom and the next week we met online. The group continued to meet beyond the original commitment to do so through Lent and it forms the basis of the Area Meeting Wednesday evening meeting for worship.

We have met each week for worship, online during the lock downs, in a Friend's garden when we could not meet indoors or in the Sylvester Horne Institute (SHI) when we were able to do so.

When we were in the SHI in September and October we met in the large hall where we were able to have chairs well-spaced. However not all Friends have been comfortable with these arrangements and individual Friends have found their own preferred pattern of belonging.

At the start of the year, we were holding monthly children's meetings. When we have met on Zoom the children have often joined us for the last few minutes of worship and stayed to have a drink with us and show us the pictures they have drawn. When we have met physically they have also joined us quite regularly and there has been a lot of space for them to run around without getting close to the rest of us. They have also participated in events organised for children across the whole of AM and wider. We are very conscious that the meeting has not been able to play as full a part as it would like in the spiritual nurture of our children.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

Lesley Richards is convening a group of Friends from the four Area Meetings that cover Wales and the Marches together with Meeting of Friends in Wales (Symud Ymlaen), working towards setting up a single charity while maintaining the five existing bodies.

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

A speaker from Quaker Service in Belfast was invited to 'Engaging Issues', the next morning a coffee morning for this charity was organised by Church in Together in the Stretton. As a result of this £644.15 was raised.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Church Stretton LM sent £300 to BYM.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Together with Area Meeting we funded Lucy Aphramor to take the Equipping for Ministry course at Woodbrooke. Unfortunately, because of the pandemic, the course didn't run and the money was returned.

A difficult situation occurred during the year. We recognise we did not meet the needs of one of our members and a great deal of hurt was caused. Area Meeting (Elders and Overseers?) held a listening meeting to support our Friend, Attempts were made to set up a meeting to help Local Friends understand the issues. It was felt that these conversations would be better held in person, rather than on Zoom. This meant they were delayed because we could not meet physically because of the pandemic.

Friends who were not comfortable worshipping online sometimes joined us for the chat over coffee. We have maintained contact by phone with those Friends who did not want to use zoom at all.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

n/a

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

We have held regular Local business meetings, physically when possible and online when this is not. These have been well attended, in fact attended by all except the one couple who are not comfortable at all on zoom. We have had a good representation at the on-line AMs. Lesley Richards was appointed to the group reviewing the holding of Yearly Meeting.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting’s Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions:

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

(There are no formal requirements in the AM policy for anything other than the criminal records disclosure.) The children’s committee feel it is important for the children to get to know all the members of the meeting so working in pairs, everyone has at some time taken responsibility for children’s meeting.

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper’s form	No

Obtaining references where appropriate	No
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	No

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

When it has been possible to hold our monthly children's meetings, there was always one more confident and experienced Friend supporting and working with a less confident Friend. We have sometimes used ideas and materials in Journeys in the Spirit supplied by Friends House.

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2020

Annual Report for Malvern

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting:

This has been a challenge, as it has for all Meetings, during the various lockdowns caused by the Covid pandemic. However, our Co-Clerk and her husband swiftly made Zoom Meetings for Worship available, starting on 5th April as a 30 minute Meeting for Worship. This has continued every week and was extending to the full hour in October. These Meetings have been well attended and often been deeply gathered.

When they could others worshipped outdoors, following regulations; then for a number of weeks in the Meeting House, duly protected. Our witness for Peace in November was necessarily very low key, as the usual services were cancelled; however, white poppies were again on sale and a white poppy wreath was still placed at the town memorial.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

Discussion groups that the Elders had planned had to be postponed for obvious reasons; but various local Friends have taken the opportunity for on-line Woodbrooke courses, increasing their awareness of Quaker thought and practice.

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

Friends in our meeting continue as active Prison Visitors, when regulations allow. Service opportunities have been limited, but we continue to support the relief of suffering through our Special Collections for various charities, for example the Farmers' Overseas Action Group (FOAG) in Uganda.

(4) Funding our concerns.

Our Collector sent out an appeal letter early in the year, inviting Friends to re-consider their giving to Quaker work locally and nationally and reminding them of the convenience of standing orders direct to our meeting account.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Pastoral care was carried out by phone calls and occasionally emails when it was not possible to meet. We continue to arrange groups of about six in each so that friends are encouraged to keep an eye on, and a listening ear for, others in their group. Zoom Meeting for Worship helped in this also, with some lapsed Friends returning via that route, and new ones 'finding' us.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

After much thought we decided that, as well as re-surfacing the wheelchair route to access at the rear of the building, we should ask the same contractors to renew the entire surface surrounding the Meeting House, since it had begun to break down.
Our Listed Building status now imposes certain restrictions.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

We have for many years used entirely ‘green’ electricity. In addition, we are now getting quotes for a more efficient heating system to replace very old heaters.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

For the past triennium, our meeting has had two Co-Clerks to deal with administration at local level. This teamwork appeared to work well, with complementary skills from each.
We make an annual commitment to send a large donation to BYM, which we have been able to increase in recent years.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting’s Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper’s form	Yes.
Obtaining references where appropriate	This has not been applicable recently.
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	This has not been applicable recently

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

Yes.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes to 1 and 3 in this box	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	Not in use since first lockdown began.
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2020

Annual Report forShrewsbury.....

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

- We have maintained a weekly worship throughout the year. This has been in person where possible, via zoom when prevented during lockdown and also outside when permitted by government rules.
- We have held a number of blended meetings for worship, combining Friends worshipping in the Meeting House with those worshipping on line via zoom.
- We have installed wifi into our Meeting so that we can continue to hold blended meetings even after the difficulties associated with the pandemic are over.
- We have strengthened our ties with churches together and area meeting through regular contact.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

- Our Light Group has continued to meet where possible. This has been in person in the Meeting House and some have also joined an international Light Group via zoom from time to time.
- Our website presence has been considerably modernised and now links effectively with other appropriate sites including BYM
- We have used zoom to offer a range of discussions for enquirers and attenders after Meeting for Worship.

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

- We have had limited use of our Meeting House since March because of the pandemic legislation. Prior to that we provided free rental for our Syrian refugees and Sapphire groups as well as providing low cost rental for a number of local community groups.
-

(4) Funding our concerns.

- We give annually to a number of local and Quaker charities and have increased our contribution to the food hub to £25 a month
- We have given a grant of £500 to YFGM from the Gawen Harvey legacy fund.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

- Our Pastoral Care Friends have maintained regular contact with Friends and attenders, despite the difficulties incurred during the recent pandemic.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

- We have maintained our premises despite the Meeting House being closed for much of the year. Our caretaker has inspected it weekly and our cleaner has continued to ensure that the fabric of the building is looked after
- We conducted a full risk assessment prior to opening in August and have continued to abide by the rules and regulations that have been in place throughout the pandemic
- The quintennial inspection was carried out in July and any recommendations have been implemented

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

- We have solar panels on the roof of the meeting house which generate a significant amount of energy over the year
- We have ensured that our energy provider is ethical and provides green energy

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

- We have been able to absorb a drop in income of over £7000 from rentals due to the nonavailability of the Meeting House because of pandemic regulations. As a result, we are able to report that our finances remain strong.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting’s Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by:

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper’s form	n/a
Obtaining references where appropriate	n/a
completing a criminal records disclosure	n/a
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	n/a

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We currently have no children attending our meeting

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2020

Annual Report for Telford Meeting

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

The effects of the pandemic created challenges in 2020, some of which may be viewed in a positive light. For example:

We were sorry that being unable to meet in person for much of the year excluded a few members and attenders who cannot or choose not to join Meeting for Worship (MfW) online on Sundays. However, some Friends joined us online who have been unable to get to MfW in person for a long time. We maintained contact with everyone by phone, email, card and letters. Our elders offered a suggested reading from *Quaker faith and practice* for each MfW on Sundays, Thursdays and monthly on Fridays (Bridgnorth). Those who wish can read the same passage at home at the start of each MfW as a way of keeping us together as one worshipping community. A few of our Meetings were blended: online and in person.

It was difficult to find times when our children and young people could meet together in person. The priority in 2020 was to keep in touch as an all-age community. A private cinema trip (Covid-safe) was a highlight but other plans were cancelled by lockdown. The committee met occasionally with the youngsters online and between them they organised a very successful quiz event which raised a substantial sum for the ShelterBox charity. We submitted pictures of ourselves when very young and then had to guess who we all were!

Our various regular groups continued as follows: discussion group (online), Experiment with Light (virtual) and Friends Fellowship of Healing group (online and virtual).

We actively sought ways to strengthen our community during the restrictions on meeting in person. A Friend held a garden meeting twice during the summer for the allowed 6 people. There were a few walks and occasional online events including a quiz, afternoon tea and, on Christmas Day, a coffee morning.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

We were not allowed to organise a public peace vigil on Remembrance Sunday but two Friends stood quietly at Wellington Peace garden.

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

We continued to support the STAY housing project by donating packs of essential household items for new residents which they can take with them when they move on. Friends donated money for this and one Friend purchased items and assembled the packs. Friends in Broseley have continued to help run the food bank there but we were unable to collect donation items on Sundays. Many Friends gave to their local food banks. Other Friends were active in a refugee group, Wellington Peace Garden, Telford Interfaith Council and arranging Food for Thought talks (as members of Broseley Churches Together).

(4) Funding our concerns.

In 2020, our special collections were for Quaker Social Action, Tree Aid, Friends Housing Bursary Trust and ShelterBox. While we were unable to collect cash, we provided Friends with the information needed so that they could donate direct to these charities. As a Meeting, we subscribed to Telford Christians Together and Broseley Churches Together.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Pastoral care Friends (formerly overseers) and elders joined together near the start of the pandemic in their common aim of supporting the Meeting and Friends. Towards the end of 2020, with the new Area Meeting appointments in place, it was agreed to function as two separate groups again. Following the encouragement of Area Meeting, plans were underway to involve more people in pastoral care – more of that to come in the 2021 report!

During 2020, we were saddened to lose four of our members. Two funerals were held in the manner of Friends and we held one memorial meeting. It is hoped to hold a further memorial meeting in 2021 for the fourth Friend.

(6a) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Throughout 2020, we were in contact with Area Meeting trustees and the manager of Meeting Point House, working with them to arrange Meetings for Worship while it was still possible and to comply with the requirements of the pandemic. A small group of Friends was appointed to carry out the practical aspects of this.

Our appointed representative is active on the board of Meeting Point Trustees.

Our notice boards, leaflet racks and sail banner are not currently visible or available for outreach (in common with all Quaker Meetings). There were no events where we might have had 'a Quaker presence'. We look forward to the development of the new Area Meeting website which will include information about our meeting.

We do not have a Meeting House so would not normally be able to offer a space for other groups to meet. An unexpected benefit of the pandemic has been that we have been able to offer the use of our Zoom account to other groups who need somewhere to meet online.

(6b) How are we acting sustainably?

Unfortunately, the pandemic has increased the use of plastic and disposable products generally but holding meetings online will have had a beneficial impact on the environment, with the reduction in travel, heating and lighting etc. When we were able to meet in person at Meeting Point House, we had started to use the former chapel, which has an external door. This helped to reduce the risk of infection for those attending and the staff member looking after us. It also meant that the manager did not have to open up and heat the first floor of the building just for us.

(7) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

Our Meeting made a donation to BYM funds in addition to individual donations. We continue to contribute to appeals for other Meeting Houses' repairs and building costs.

In addition, trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions.

8. Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by: Each member of our Children and Young Peoples Committee has clearance from the DBS scheme. These Friends are appointed through the usual Quaker nomination process so application forms and references are not felt to be needed or appropriate. Health and Safety regulations are the responsibility of Meeting Point House.

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helper's form	No. Only appointed members of our Children and Young People's Committee do this work.
Obtaining references where appropriate	No. Only appointed members of our Children and Young People's Committee do this work.
completing a criminal records disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	No

9. Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We do not provide training but we encourage and support members of our CYP Committee to make use of materials provided by Britain Yearly Meeting and to attend relevant support meetings, courses and conferences.

Our overall programme is decided by the CYP Committee. It is modified as needed to be appropriate for whichever young people attend on any particular Sunday. Each session is planned by the pair of workers who will run the session. If a new worker joins the group, s/he will work initially with a more experienced person.

10. For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or no	Comments
Accident book		
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.		
Portable electrical appliance testing		
Health and safety policy reviewed.		
Warning signs in place.		
Conditions of use for hirers		

Quaker Local Meeting Annual Report 2020

Annual Report for Worcester Meeting for the year 2020

(1) Strengthening the life and witness of our Meeting

Meeting for Worship has been held via Zoom for much of the year following the lockdown due to the Corona Virus Pandemic. Whilst the Meeting House was open in the early part of the year, Meeting for Worship was held on Sunday and Wednesday. Once the Meeting House was closed on 23 March, Meetings were held via Zoom. Initially, Sunday MfW was held for 30 minutes, but from 19 April it reverted to the normal 1 hour and has remained at that ever since. After a while, the Wednesday Meeting for worship was cancelled owing to very low attendance. The Meeting house reopened on 13 September, following an extensive risk assessment. At that time our Meetings became blended with members attending both at the Meeting House and via Zoom. Attendance at both Zoom and blended meetings has been fairly consistent with around 20 people present. The Meeting House was closed again, in line with Government Guidelines, from 5 November.

Owing to the complications caused by the various lockdowns, it has been difficult to maintain any formal study groups. We have, however managed to hold a number of social events via Zoom.

The Zero Carbon Future Project continued to develop during 2020, even though the funding for the project through Friends House did not materialise. It developed as a local project, involving a number of local organisations and is now 'The Worcester Grassroots Alliance', which is now supported by Area Meeting as a whole, rather than just Worcester Meeting.

Again, owing to the pandemic, there have been no children attending Meeting since 2020. Small numbers of children attended MFW on one Sunday during January and February.

We discussed Simpler Meetings at our Meetings for Worship for Business and action will be discussed during our first MfWfB in 2021.

We have had one shared lunch in February which was followed by an impromptu concert.

We have had one 'Craftivism' session in February to create bookmarks to given away at the World Day of Prayer evening session which was held at the Meeting House in March. A small number of Friends have continued to support Café Mix, by meeting for lunch each month, until it was prevented by the pandemic.

(2) Spreading the message of Friends and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Society.

We were delighted to hold the evening World Day of Prayer event in early 2020 where over 50 people attended.

We continue to produce a Newsletter three times a year. It is being distributed within the Meeting as well as copies being available for visitors to take away.

Notices are emailed to all those who are on our list as and when they are given to the Clerks. Paper copies are provided for those not on email. We continue to make available the minutes for both Local and Area Meeting for Worship for Business, and keep copies in the Clerks Information File held in the Meeting House.

Our participation in inter-church activities has continued over the last year with our attendance at the Worcestershire Interfaith Forum (WIFF) via Zoom.

Extinction Rebellion continued to use a room at the Meeting House until it was not possible due to Covid 19 Government restrictions.

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

We regularly support Maggs Day Centre in Worcester and the local Worcester Street Café

At home we have supported diverse charities for the vulnerable and the sick. We have also collected and given items of food to the local food bank when that was possible.

The Meeting has continued to support two Uganda based charities with funds, skills and practical input into events.

(4) Funding our concerns

As we have been unable to hold a normal charity collection for much of the year, the meeting has donated £150 to each of the charities nominated for this year, from its own funds.

(5) Providing for the pastoral care of individual members and attenders including assistance for those in need and for education

Elders and Overseers have met regularly and keep a loving watch on the Meeting. Also, in accordance with Advices and Queries 1.05 'Duty of Reading' a paragraph from Advices and Queries is read out and recorded each month at Sunday Meeting for Worship (MfW).

Elders and Overseers have encouraged friends to complete a Funeral Wishes form.

(6) Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places of public worship and from which to carry our witness into the world.

Our Resident Friend has continued to extend a friendly welcome to users of our Meeting House when it has been possible. Unfortunately due to Government restrictions use of the Meeting House has been greatly restricted

The Meeting House and garden are well maintained and we are thankful for the work of our cleaner and contract gardener. Those using the Meeting house very often spend time in the quiet of our garden.

(7) Sustainability

We have changed to a 'Green' energy supplier during the year..

(8) Administering and maintaining our organisation and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting

In addition trustees need to be satisfied that we are complying with our responsibilities to safeguard children and vulnerable adults in accordance with Area Meeting's Safeguarding Policy and fulfilling our duties under health and safety legislation. Could you answer the following questions?

(9) Are all those working with children appointed in accordance with our policy by?

Procedure	Yes or No + comments
Asking them to complete a helpers form	Yes
Obtaining references where appropriate	No
Completing a DBS disclosure	Yes
Providing induction into health and safety and their role	Yes

(10) Are there any arrangements in place for supporting and training those working with children?

We have a convener of Children's Meeting who provides guidance.

(11) For those with a building: Worcester, Malvern, Shrewsbury, and Bewdley

Have you got the following in place?

	Yes or No	Comments
Accident book	Yes	
Fire Safety signs Fire Evacuation procedure Fire extinguisher/s maintained and up to date.	Yes	
Portable electrical appliance testing	Yes	
Health and safety policy reviewed.	Yes	
Warning signs in place.	Yes	
Conditions of use for hirers	Yes	