

**NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING
OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS) IN BRITAIN**

**REPORT AND CONSOLIDATED ACCOUNTS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING 31 DECEMBER,
2020**

The Charity was registered as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation) on October 5, 2018 (Number 1180217)

Address for communications:

The Clerk to the Trustees, Northampton Quaker Meeting House, Wellington Street,
Northampton NN1 3AS

Officers:

Clerk to the Trustees: Peter Riches from January 1 until 12th July; Eleanor Coss from 12th July until the present.

Treasurer: Ron Barden

Independent Examiner:

David Stephens, 13 Newlands Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN9 4AS

Trustees serving during 2020

Ron Barden, Eleanor Coss, Peter Little, Heather Brunsell-Evans, Angela Atkins, Elaine Smith, Ian Neale, Theo Sturge, Peter Riches (resigned July 2020)

Bankers:

- The Co-operative Bank plc, PO Box 101, 1 Balloon Street Manchester, M60 4EP
- Market Harborough Building Society, Welland House, The Square, Market Harborough, Leicestershire LE16 7PD
- National Westminster Bank plc, 16 High Street, Kettering, Northamptonshire, NN16 8SZ; 40 Market Street, Wellingborough, Northamptonshire NN8 1AD; 25 Corporation Street, Corby, NN17 1NR
- Santander UK plc, 2 Triton Square, Regent's Place, London NW1 3AN
- Triodos Bank NV, Deanery Road, Bristol, BS1 5AS

Structure and Governance:

Constitution:

A Charitable Incorporated Organisation: Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain (abbreviated as Northamptonshire Area Meeting) number 1180217 which was formally registered by the Charities Commission on October 5, 2018.

Trustees:

Appointed for a period of three years by the Area Meeting following nomination by its Nominations Committee. Trustees are encouraged to take advantage of relevant training opportunities that are available. Business meetings within the Society are conducted as 'meetings for worship for church affairs' in which there is no voting, the Clerk is a servant of the meeting and the minutes are agreed at each meeting. Northamptonshire Area Meeting comprises four local meetings - Kettering, Northampton, Oundle and Wellingborough, each forming a separate congregation. Membership of the Society of Friends is held within the Area Meeting.

Objectives:

The furtherance of the religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in the area of Northamptonshire Area Meeting and beyond. The Area Meeting ensures the right holding of public meetings for worship, and regular meetings for church affairs in each of the constituent meetings - Kettering, Northampton and Wellingborough, in their own meeting houses, and Oundle in rented premises. The Area Meeting supports Quaker witness through its public meetings for worship, and supports social projects for the relief of poverty and suffering as well as witness for peace and reconciliation, both within its own geographical area and more widely through the work of Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends.

Performance:

The Area Meeting had 82 members at the end of 2020. Regular weekly meetings for worship were held by each of the Local Meetings. Each Local Meeting held monthly meetings for worship for church affairs, usually coordinated a week before the Area Meetings, which were held on ten occasions during the year. During the national lockdowns necessitated by the coronavirus pandemic, both regular Meetings for Worship and Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs were held over Zoom video-conferencing.

The Area Meeting provides financial assistance to enable members and attenders to attend conferences and courses for their spiritual development and enrichment. These have included training courses for those taking up Quaker roles, enquirer's courses and events relating to subjects such as sustainability. Northampton Meeting provides classes for children and young people (when meeting in person in the Meeting House is possible), and the Area Meeting offers support for young people to attend a variety of Quaker youth events.

Meeting for Worship at Kettering has been held virtually since March due to the Coronavirus restrictions, with Friends either sitting in their own homes or meeting online via Zoom. The weekly sharing of readings from *Quaker Faith & Practice*, *Advices and Queries* and other sources helped to facilitate a sense of togetherness. Kettering Overseers established 'telephone circles' for Friends to keep in touch with each other, and three 'Spiritual Journey'

groups, each with five or six Friends, met online regularly for mutual support. In terms of outreach, Kettering Meeting made significant financial donations to nine local charitable organisations to enable them to support vulnerable groups during the Coronavirus pandemic, and a playgroup continued to use the building to provide early years learning for pre-school children. Kettering Friends continued to be active in Churches Together and the local Interfaith Forum. To enhance the fabric of the building, the windows in the large and small meeting rooms will be replaced in early 2021 to improve sound and thermal insulation, and to allow easier opening for ventilation.

Members of Northampton Meeting continue to be active in Outreach. During the University term, and when coronavirus restrictions allow, Friends join with our University Chaplain at the Multi Faith Centre on the campus once a week. Students have the chance to chat about anything that is concerning them, eat cake, and join a short meeting for worship. Friends have given financial support to 40 charities from weekly collections after Meeting for Worship supplemented by a contribution from funds. A further regular meeting for worship takes place once a month in Greens Norton for those members who live in and around Greens Norton, or lived there in past. Like others this transferred to Zoom during lockdown.

Friends of Oundle Meeting participate in the area and national work of the Society.

Wellingborough Friends continue to meet regularly, offering four planned opportunities each week, remotely and online. When the building was closed in March 2020, the Meeting focused on looking after the members and attenders and reaching out to community groups in need of support in very difficult times. Their meetings were outdoors in spring and summer with some autumn meetings, when permitted, in the Meeting House. They invested in ICT to keep in touch and share online worship. Regular financial, food donation and volunteer support continued for the Daylight Centre and the Foodbank, and members and friends supported One Wellingborough and Northamptonshire Together appeals; the Quaker Kitchen providing lunches for those who are homeless or vulnerable could not continue during lockdown. Financial support was given by the meeting and individuals to provide housing for a refugee family nearby and they supported appeals from other Quaker organisations.

The trustees keep the fabric of the three Meeting Houses under regular review and undertake a planned programme of repairs and improvements to them. The five-yearly survey of the condition of the three Meeting Houses was last carried out during 2019 by John C Barker MRICS FCIQB FRSA IHBC during which no unexpected problems were revealed.

The Area Meeting continues to encourage other charities and voluntary bodies to make use of the properties, when not required by the Society, both in order to provide income for its charitable work and as a form of Quaker outreach and service within the local community. The current national financial situation has resulted in a reduction in the use of our properties by other organisations that are dependent upon government grants; the necessity of closing all Meeting Houses during national lockdowns also resulted in a significant loss of income through much of 2020.

Sustainability:

Northamptonshire Area Meeting is determined to sustain and deepen our commitment to being a low carbon community, and to reduce the carbon footprint of our Meetings. In 2020 we started a small group to explore "Greening our Meeting Houses", with the aim of

investigating the best ways to improve the carbon footprints of our Meeting Houses. This group's work was delayed by the coronavirus pandemic but will resume as soon as restrictions allow.

Financial review:

The total funds available to the Area Meeting remain substantial, at £410,437, which the trustees consider to be fully sufficient to meet the anticipated demands of the Area Meeting, particularly in relation to the condition of the AQM's Meeting Houses. Each local meeting has its own treasurer; the local meeting accounts being consolidated each year within those of the Area Meeting. The Area Meeting's Expendable and Permanent Restricted funds are detailed in note 3 on the consolidated accounts page.

The three Meeting Houses are not shown as a fixed asset in the accounts, as they are functional properties and there is no intention to sell them. Buildings are insured for £988,973 and contents £67,000.

The Area Meeting owns two investment properties. Both are currently leased to Northampton Domestic Abuse Service as refuge houses. Refuge House 1 is valued at £175,000; Refuge House 2 is valued at £200,000. The income from rents is used for general purposes.

Policy on reserves:

The Area Meeting does not currently have a formal reserves policy. Area Meeting has proposed that Trustees should bring forward a reserves policy. At present, the Area Meeting aims to retain sufficient reserves to enable it to undertake the following year's expenditure as well as to respond to unforeseen needs, both for property restoration and ongoing support for the concerns supported by members of the Meeting. To this end a rolling budget is maintained and five yearly surveys of the properties are carried out. Northampton Local Meeting implemented a reserves policy in 2015; Kettering Local Meeting implemented theirs in 2017; Wellingborough Local Meeting adopted theirs in July 2020.

Public benefit statement:

Northamptonshire Area Meeting is one of seventy area meetings of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in England, Wales and Scotland. The resources arise from contributions, donations, legacies, income raised from the use of the property by other charitable and non-profit making organisations, and interest received. These resources are used on deepening and sharing our spiritual experience and acts that arise from our faith. We support work for peace, justice, a sustainable environment, the alleviation of suffering and victims of oppression. Our local meetings for worship are open to all with no tests, and membership of the Society is open to anyone seeking truth. This report shows how our resources have been spent and how the public benefits from our work.

Signed by

E Coss

Eleanor Coss (Clerk)

Date

30 July 2021

Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting
Of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

Accounts Year ended 31 December 2020

Charity Registration Number 1180217

Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting

Charity Registration Number 1180217

Receipts and Payments Accounts

Year Ended 31 December 2020

	Gen fund	Building fund	Local Meetings	Restricted Fund	Permanent Endowment	Totals	2019
Receipts							
Voluntary receipts	500		29,886			30,386	21,263
Gift Aid			2,669			2,669	4,427
Activities for generating funds	12,768	245	13,173			26,186	46,910
Investments	329		1,763			2,092	1,739
Quaker activities			648			648	107
Other income	205		0			205	0
Legacies			23,229			23,229	80,309
	13,802	245	71,368	0	0	85,415	154,755
Payments							
Governance costs	450		63			513	713
Grants and donations	1,000		28,256			29,256	27,288
Quaker activities	1,122		1,098			2,220	5,875
Property costs		13,012	19,722			32,734	61,845
	2,572	13,012	49,139	0	0	64,723	95,721
Asset purchases							
Fixed assets							
	0	0	0	0	0		
	11,230	-12,767	22,229	0	0		
Net income						20,692	59,034
To AM	3,645	7,840	-11,485				0
Other transfers							
	3,645	7,840	-11,485	0	0		0
Net movement	14,875	-4,927	10,744	0	0	20,692	59,034
Cash funds b/fwd	82,734	67,171	239,840	5,667	0	395,412	336,378
Cash funds c/fwd	97,609	62,244	250,584	5,667	0	416,104	395,412

Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting

Charity Registration Number 1180217

Statement of Assets and Liabilities

Year Ended 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
Cash funds					
Area Meeting	Triodos	90,006			
	NatWest	69,847			
Local Meetings					
Kettering		42,245			
Northampton		194,826			
Oundle		1,656			
Wellingborough		11,857	5,667		
		410,437	5,667	0	416,104
Other monetary assets					
Area Meeting	Prepayments	1,300			
		1,300	0	0	1,300
		Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	Endowment funds	
				-56,164	-56,164
Liabilities					
Investment assets					
Kettering house		118,836		56,164	
Wellingborough house		200,000			
		318,836	0	56,164	375,000
					736,240

Signed on behalf of the trustees

Signature R Barden

Name R Barden

Date 30 July 2021

Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting

Charity Registration Number 1180217

Notes to the accounts

Year Ended 31 December 2020

Local Meetings

	Kettering	Northampton	Oundle	Wellingborough	Total
Receipts					
Voluntary receipts	8,525	12,209	1,387	7,765	29,886
Gift Aid	1,234			1,435	2,669
Activities for generating funds	5,930	5,905		1,338	13,173
Investments	259	1,488		16	1,763
Legacies		23,229			23,229
Quaker activities				648	648
	<u>15,948</u>	<u>42,831</u>	<u>1,387</u>	<u>11,202</u>	<u>71,368</u>
Payments					
Governance costs	63				63
Grant and donations	15,510	8,696	300	3,750	28,256
Quaker activities	120	468		510	1,098
Property costs	3,600	13,084		3,038	19,722
	<u>19,293</u>	<u>22,248</u>	<u>300</u>	<u>7,298</u>	<u>49,139</u>
	<u>-3,345</u>	<u>20,583</u>	<u>1,087</u>	<u>3,904</u>	<u>22,229</u>
Net income					
To AM	-3,454	-4,867	-495	-2,669	-11,485
Other transfers					0
	<u>-3,454</u>	<u>-4,867</u>	<u>-495</u>	<u>-2,669</u>	<u>-11,485</u>
Net movement	-6,799	15,716	592	1,235	10,744
Cash funds b/fwd	49,044	179,110	1,064	16,289	245,507
Cash funds c/fwd	<u>42,245</u>	<u>194,826</u>	<u>1,656</u>	<u>17,524</u>	<u>256,251</u>
Restricted funds	0	0	0	5,667	5,667
Unrestricted funds	<u>42,245</u>	<u>194,826</u>	<u>1,656</u>	<u>11,857</u>	<u>250,584</u>
Total funds	<u>42,245</u>	<u>194,826</u>	<u>1,656</u>	<u>17,524</u>	<u>256,251</u>

**REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT EXAMINER TO THE TRUSTEES OF
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE AREA QUAKER MEETING**

Charity Registration Number 1180217

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2020

Responsibilities of Trustees and Examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this year under section 144 (2) of the Charities Act 2011 (the 2011 Act) and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- Examine the accounts under section 145 of the 2011 Act;
- To follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners (under section 145 (5)(b) of the 2011 Act; and
- To state 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 Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts prepared with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a "true and fair view" and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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 charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records; or
3. the accounts do not comply with the 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.

D Stephens

31 July 2021

David Stephens FCCA
Chartered Certified Accountant
13 Newlands Road
Tunbridge Wells
Kent
TN9 4AS