

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

(Registered charity, number 1180217)

**Financial statements
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

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**Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain
Trustees' annual report
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

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

Other names by which the charity is known Northamptonshire Area Meeting

Organisation type Charitable incorporated organisation

Registered charity number 1180217

Principal address

Quaker Meeting House, Wellington Street, Northampton, NN1 3AS

Trustees

Angela Atkins, Acting Clerk
Elizabeth Rees, from 12/09/2022,
Andrew Halliwell, from 01/01/2022, Treasurer
Olaseni Alaka, from 01/01/2023
Paul Bertin, from 01/01/2023
Annette Candy, from 01/01/2023
John Theodore Sturge, until 31/12/2022
Heather Brunsell-Evans, until 31/12/2022
Eleanor Coss, until 31/12/2022
Ian Neale, until 31/12/2022
Elaine Smith, until 08/05/2022
Peter Little, until 11/07/2022

Independent examiner

John O'Brien, employee of Community Accounting Plus, Units 1 & 2 North West, 41 Talbot Street, Nottingham, NG1 5GL

Governance and management

The charity is operated under the rules of its constitution adopted 05/10/2018. Trustees are appointed for a period of three years by the Area Meeting following nomination by its Nominations Committee.

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. Membership of the Society of Friends is held within the Area Meeting.

Objectives and activities

The object of Northamptonshire 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 Northamptonshire Area Meeting and beyond.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit

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. 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.

Northamptonshire Area Meeting is one of seventy area meetings of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in England, Wales and Scotland. Contributions, donations, legacies, income raised from the use of the property by other charitable and nonprofit making organisations, and interest received 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.

Public benefit statement

The Trustees confirm that they have complied with the duty in section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to the Charity Commission's general guidance on public benefit, 'Charities and Public Benefit'.

Summary of the main achievements during the period

The Meetings have faced both Challenges and Joys throughout the year.

As we emerged from the pandemic, the Local meetings of Northampton, Kettering and Wellingborough were able to meet freely for worship together face to face once more without restriction. Northampton Local Meeting has been working hard to make Blended meeting work effectively as a permanent feature to extend our worship (face to face and online meeting together).

We have been gladdened to see some of those that use our Meeting Houses during the week return and saddened for those that have closed down their activities for good since covid.

The Meetings have remained keen to support the work of those such as NDAS, and of local refugees.

Charney Manor proved a lovely setting for us all to come together in June 2022 from across the county to recharge after the difficult Covid Period.

Financial review

The total liquid funds available to the Area Meeting remain substantial, at about £358k; £130,000 being held directly by Area Meeting, and the remainder being administered within the accounts of its Local Meetings. The trustees consider this 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 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 £3,762,000 in total.

Additionally, the Area Meeting owns two investment properties. Both are currently leased to Northampton Domestic Abuse Service as refuge houses. Refuge House 1 is insured for £225,000; Refuge House 2 for £204,000. The income from rents is used for general purposes. It should be noted that although labelled as investment properties, the provision of these two Refuge Houses was undertaken primarily as a means of providing a socially sustainable use for Capital Assets of the Area Meeting, and is not managed on profit maximisation principles.

The rent of the investment properties provides some income, but the majority of income within the Area Meeting come from the contributions of members and attenders, and from the hiring of the Meeting Houses to other groups. Hiring income remains below pre-pandemic levels for all 3 local meetings. Depressed rental income, static contributions income, offset by rising inflation and Quinquennial maintenance work for the three Meeting Houses has meant that cash flow in 2022 remained negative, down £45,000.

Hiring revenues remain considerably below pre-pandemic levels and are unlikely to recover in the near future. Member contributions remain broadly flat. Offset against this is the impact of rising inflation, which puts pressure on costs. Inflationary behaviours have not yet translated into higher giving and increased rents to offset this. Whilst reserves comfortably cover the resulting negative impact on cash flows for now, the structural deficit that is emerging will need to be addressed sooner rather than later, particularly if inflation continues to rise.

The three Meeting Houses are all of some age, and inevitably require regular substantial renovation to maintain them.

Inevitably, all charities face the risk of mismanagement (through neglect or design) particularly of the cash asset base, although protective governance measures and the fact that the majority of the assets are not liquid mitigates such risk.

The combination of substantial cash and investment assets and regular contribution income provide strong risk protection against variable hiring income and ongoing upkeep costs of maintaining its 3 Meeting Houses. The long term viability of The Area Meeting ultimately rests on maintaining its membership at a viable level in the

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

decades and centuries to come, as existing local meetings grow or decline, and new local meetings arise.

The Funds of the Area Meeting and its constituent Local Meetings are not cumulatively at current risk of running into deficit. The option and facility exists to transfer funds from one fund to another within the Area Meeting where required. Ultimately the contributions of members have always remained the core means of maintaining the liquidity of the Area Meeting and have remained responsive to the needs of the Area Meeting.

The charity's policy on reserves

Local Meetings have their own Reserves Policy. Northampton Local Meeting implemented a reserves policy in 2015; Kettering Local Meeting implemented theirs in 2017; Wellingborough Local Meeting adopted theirs in July 2020.

Area Meeting does not currently have a separate formal reserves policy, but in practice maintains a reserve sufficient 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. Whilst Local Meetings pay the costs for everyday repairs and maintenance the Area Meeting itself assumes the responsibility for the renovation works on the Meeting Houses; accordingly, a core and ongoing priority of Area Meeting is to ensure there are sufficient reserves at all times to cover such costs within the Building Fund. Annual Contributions from Local Meetings to the Building Fund are to ensure the Building Fund remains healthy.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed _____

ate 19/8/2023

Angela Atkins, Acting Clerk to the Trustees

**Independent examiner's report to the trustees of
Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society
of Friends (Quakers) in Britain
for the year ended 31 December 2022**

I report to the trustees on my examination of the accounts of Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain (the charity) for the year ended 31 December 2022.

Responsibilities and basis of report

As the trustees of the charity you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011 ('the Act'). I report in respect of my examination of the charity's accounts carried out under section 145 of the 2011 Act and in carrying out my examination I have followed all the applicable Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act.

Independent examiner's statement

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

1. accounting records were not kept in respect of the charity as required by section 130 of the Act; or
2. the accounts do not accord with those records.

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.



Signed Date

21/08/2023

John O'Brien MSc, FCCA, FCIE
Employee of Community Accounting Plus

Receipts & payments account for the year ended 31 December 2022

2021				2022	
Total			Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds			Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Receipts	Note	£	£	£
984	Bank interest		782		782
107	Collections		378		378
21585	Contributions		19965		19965
2727	Donations received		11448		11448
4766	Gift aid		2289		2289
4667	Hire of meeting rooms		15342		15342
15960	Rents received		15960		15960
1762	Solar panels (WM H)		1658		1658
300	Sundry receipts				
52858	Total receipts		67822		67822
	Payments				
192	Gov: bank charges		264		264
576	Gov: Bookkeeping		1270		1270
810	Gov: Legal & professional				
345	Life: Conferences & courses		9612		9612
18299	Life: Donations paid out		27867		27867
431	Life: Dues and subscriptions		417		417
64	Life: Elders & overseers		40		40
234	Life: Members' list				
99	Life: Postage & stationery		13		13
674	Life: Safeguarding		129		129
175	Life: Website		367		367
4842	Property: Cleaning		5581		5581
3439	Property:Garden Equip & Mntce		5602		5602
2287	Property: Insurances		5171		5171
926	Property: Kitchen & catering				
5921	Property:Minor repairs				
1133	Property: Refuse collection		1133		1133
5456	Property: Repairs & maintenance		54892		54892
1846	Property:Tests & inspections		1439		1439
905	Property: Broadband		876		876
4318	Property: Utilities		7162		7162
3575	Refuge House: Improvements & rates		260		260
	Sundry payments		1042		
56547	Total payments		123137		1042
					123137
(3689)	Net receipts/(payments)		(55315)		(55315)
417080	Cash funds at start of this period		411335	2056	413391
	Transfers between funds	2	1281	(1281)	
413391	Cash funds at end of this period		357301	775	358076

Statement of assets and liabilities at 31 December 2022

2021			2022
£			£
<u>413391</u>	Cash assets		<u>358076</u>
<u>413391</u>	Bank accounts		358076
	Investment properties (at cost)		
	Kettering House		
	Endowment funds (see funds note)	56164	
	Unrestricted funds	<u>118836</u>	

175000		175000
<u>200000</u>	Wellingborough House (unrestricted funds)	<u>200000</u>
<u>375000</u>		<u>375000</u>
	Other current assets	
	Insurance prepayment	<u>2933</u>
	Assets retained for the charity's own use	
	General equipment.	
	Liabilities	
<u>(780)</u>	Legal & professional fees	<u>(840)</u>
<u>(780)</u>		<u>(840)</u>
	Functional property	
	In addition the charity holds functional property comprising three local meeting houses, with insured values as follows:	
	Kettering	692071
	Wellingborough	1018678
	Northampton	1061175

These financial statements are accepted on behalf of the charity by:

Signed

Dated 19/8/2023

Angela Atkins, Acting Clerk to the Trustees

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31 December 2022

1. Receipts & payments accounts

Receipts and payments accounts contain a summary of money received and money spent during the period and a list of assets and liabilities at the end of the period.

Usually, cash received and cash spent will include transactions through bank accounts and cash in hand.

2. Cash Funds summary

	Opening balance	Receipts	(Payments)	Transfers	Clo sin g bal an ce
	£	£	£	£	£
Restricted funds					
Gravely Legacy	2056			(1281)	
	<u>2056</u>			<u>(1281)</u>	
Unrestricted funds					
Area General Fund	107721	17837	(27059)	2929	
Area Building Fund	60226	4561	(45497)	7800	
Kettering Local Meeting	40154	9351	(6965)	(2160)	
Northampton Local Meeting	185416	23299	(30748)	(3360)	
Oundle Local Meeting	2833	96		(2929)	
Wellingborough Local Meeting	14985	12678	(12868)	(999)	
	<u>411335</u>	<u>67822</u>	<u>(123137)</u>	<u>1281</u>	

The Gravely Legacy is a restricted fund to finance work in the annexe (Community Room), garden and meeting house in Wellingborough.

The transfers from the Local Meeting funds to the Area Building fund reflect the quotas charged to the Local Meetings.

In addition, Acting as Agent, the charity collected and paid out donations totalling £2,546 to third parties.

3. Cash funds Local Meetings detail

	Kettering Funds £	Northampton Funds £	Oundle Funds £
Receipts			
Bank interest	76	487	
Collections		378	
Contributions	2875	12540	96
Donations received	2000		
Gift aid	1061		1228
Hire of meeting rooms	<u>3339</u>	<u>9894</u>	<u></u>
			<u>2109</u>
Total receipts	<u>9351</u>	<u>23299</u>	<u>96</u>
			<u>12678</u>
Payments			
Gov: Bank charges	2		
Life: Donations paid out	4465	9002	4400
Life: Dues and subscriptions Life: Elders & overseers	10	417	
Life: Postage & stationery		13	
Property: Cleaning	493	4274	814
Property: Garden Equip & Mntce	304	2450	2847
Property: Refuse collection		1133	
Property: Repairs & maintenance		8358	2028
Property: Tests & inspections	304	144	
Property: Broadband		325	745
Property: Utilities	1387	3741	2034
Sundry payments	<u></u>	<u>891</u>	<u></u>
			<u></u>
Total payments	<u>6965</u>	<u>30748</u>	<u></u>
			<u>12868</u>
Net receipts/(payments)	2386	(7449)	96
			(190)
Cash funds at start of this period	40154	185416	2833
			14985
Transfers between funds	<u>(2160)</u>	<u>(3360)</u>	<u>(2929)</u>
			<u>(999)</u>
Cash funds at end of this period	<u>40380</u>	<u>174607</u>	<u></u>
			<u>13796</u>

4. Endowment funds analysis

The Betty Desborough fund is held as part of the Kettering Investment property

	£
Betty Desborough fund	50000
Kingsthorpe Land Accumulated Income	890
Kingsthorpe Land Capital	500
Land at Old Accumulated Income	545
Land at Old Capital	500
William Dry Accumulated Income	1338
William Dry Capital	500
Woodford Close Accumulated Income	1391
Woodford Close Capital	500
	56164

The Area Meeting holds within its assets The Betty Desborough Fund, a legacy given specifically for the purposes of supporting Friends attending Courses and is thus held and used by the Area Meeting as a restricted fund for this purpose. Its current size is £50,000 or 25% of any future sale proceeds of the Kettering investment property, whichever is the greater. Note, the Betty Desborough Fund is currently invested within the Kettering property that is rented out; and that in the event of that property's sale the receipts would be returned to the fund proportionately to its original stake.

Trustees have utilised an accounting convention of dividing its (unrestricted) funds between the General Fund, and a Building Fund. The Building fund is designed to provide a sufficient pot of monies to be used over a 5 year cycle for the preservation in good condition of the 3 Meeting Houses that it owns, topped up each year through contributions from the local meetings. Note that every day maintenance and repairs are paid for by the local meetings directly.

5. Trustees' remuneration

Trustees received no expenses, remuneration or benefits in this period.