

**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 2023**

<b>Page</b>	<b>Contents</b>
2 - 5	Trustees' annual report
6	Independent examiner's report
7	Receipts & payments account
8	Statement of assets & liabilities
9 - 11	Notes to the accounts

**Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting  
of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain  
Trustees' annual report  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**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**

Paul Bertin, Acting Clerk  
Andrew Halliwell, Treasurer  
Elizabeth Rees  
Olaseni Alaka  
Annette Candy  
Patrick Braithwaite, from 01/01/2024  
John Sturge, from 01/01/2024  
Angela Atkins, until 31/12/2023

**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

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

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**

As we emerge from the pandemic we were able to meet freely for Worship together without restriction. Northampton local meeting has continued to work on making blended meeting work effectively as a permanent feature to extend worship face to face and on line meeting together.

The Meetings have continued to support the work of NDAS, local refugees and have provided a Quaker Kitchen in Wellingborough.

### **Financial review**

The total liquid funds available to the Area Meeting remain stable, at about £360,000; held between Area Meeting, and its Local Meetings. The trustees consider this to be sufficient to meet the anticipated demands of the Area Meeting, which includes the upkeep of three Mature 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 is 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.

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

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. Matching expenditure and income remained challenging in a time of high inflation and fairly static income streams, but the Area Meeting Cash Flow as a whole was able to grow by about £14,000 in 2023.

Hiring Revenues remain below pre-pandemic levels, but are slowly recovering. Member contributions remain broadly flat. Offset against this is the impact of rising inflation, which puts pressures on costs. Reserves remain comfortable enough for now, with cash flows positive overall in 2023.

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

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 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.

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

The next quinquennial survey is due in 2024 and can be expected to call on some of these reserves.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed  Date 30/5/24

Paul Bertin, 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 2023**

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 2023.

**Responsibilities and basis of report**

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

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

**Independent examiner's statement**

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

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

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 30/5/24

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

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

## Receipts & payments account for the year ended 31 December 2023

2022				2023
Total		Unrestricted	Restricted	Total
Funds		Funds	Funds	Funds
£	Receipts	£	£	£
782	Bank interest	3976	-	3976
378	Collections	290	-	290
19965	Contributions	20698	-	20698
11448	Donations received	4900	-	4900
2289	Gift aid	6083	-	6083
15342	Hire of meeting rooms	23231	-	23231
15960	Rents received	19065	-	19065
1658	Solar panels (WMH)	839	-	839
-	Sundry receipts	514	-	514
<b>67822</b>	<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>79596</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>79596</b>
	<b>Payments</b>			
264	Gov: bank charges	260	-	260
1270	Gov: Bookkeeping	1056	-	1056
-	Gov: Legal & professional	234	-	234
9612	Life: Conferences & courses	1743	-	1743
27867	Life: Donations paid out	25962	-	25962
417	Life: Dues and subscriptions	410	-	410
40	Life: Elders & overseers	40	-	40
-	Life: other payments	350	-	350
13	Life: Postage & stationery	18	-	18
129	Life: Safeguarding	145	-	145
367	Life: Website & wifi	531	-	531
5581	Property:Cleaning	7733	-	7733
5602	Property:Garden Equip & Mntce	3612	-	3612
5171	Property:Insurances	3020	-	3020
-	Property:Kitchen & catering	74	-	74
1133	Property: Refuse collection	1164	-	1164
54892	Property:Repairs & maintenance	15566	-	15566
1439	Property:Tests & inspections	426	-	426
876	Property:Broadband	892	-	892
7162	Property: Utilities	13061	-	13061
260	Refuge House: Improvements & rates	984	-	984
1042	Sundry payments	-	-	-
<b>123137</b>	<b>Total payments</b>	<b>77281</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>77281</b>
(55315)	<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	2315	-	2315
413391	Cash funds at start of this period	357301	775	358076
<b>358076</b>	<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b>359616</b>	<b>775</b>	<b>360391</b>

**Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends (Quakers) in Britain  
Statement of assets and liabilities  
at 31 December 2023**

2022 £		2023 £
<u>358076</u>	<b>Cash assets</b>	
<u>358076</u>	Bank accounts	<u>360391</u>
		<b><u>360391</u></b>
	<b>Investment properties (at cost)</b>	
	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>		<b><u>375000</u></b>
	<b>Other current assets</b>	
<u>2933</u>	Insurance prepayment	<b><u>3020</u></b>
	<b>Assets retained for the charity's own use</b>	
	General equipment.	
	<b>Liabilities</b>	
<u>(840)</u>	Legal & professional fees	<u>(930)</u>
<u>(840)</u>		<b><u>(930)</u></b>
	<b>Functional property</b>	
	In addition the charity holds functional property comprising three local meeting houses, with insured values as follows:	
	Kettering	814049
	Wellingborough	1198220
	Northampton	1248207

Type text here

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

Signed Andrew Halliwell Dated 30/5/24

Andrew Halliwell, Treasurer



**Northamptonshire Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of  
Friends (Quakers) in Britain  
Notes to the accounts  
for the year ended 31 December 2023**

**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	Closing balance
	£	£	£	£	£
<b>Restricted funds</b>					
Gravely Legacy	775	-	-	-	775
	<b>775</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>775</b>
<b>Unrestricted funds</b>					
Area General Fund	101428	22093	(14627)	-	108894
Area Building Fund	27090	-	(14828)	7340	19602
Kettering Local Meeting	40380	8700	(5064)	(1920)	42096
Northampton Local Meeting	174607	28599	(28180)	(3720)	171306
Wellingborough Local Meeting	13796	17262	(11640)	(1700)	17718
Acting as Agent (BYM)	-	2942	(2942)	-	-
	<b>357301</b>	<b>79596</b>	<b>(77281)</b>	<b>-</b>	<b>359616</b>

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 £2,119 to third parties.

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

### 3. Cash funds Local Meetings detail

	Kettering	Northampton	Wellingborough
	Funds	Funds	Funds
	£	£	£
<b>Receipts</b>			
Bank interest	595	1706	-
Collections	-	226	-
Contributions	332	12147	7719
Donations received	1880	-	1920
Gift aid	499	2770	1536
Hire of meeting rooms	5394	11750	6087
<b>Total receipts</b>	<b>8700</b>	<b>28599</b>	<b>17262</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
Gov: Bank charges	10	-	-
Gov: Legal & Professional fees	-	-	234
Life: Donations paid out	890	9980	2150
Life: Dues and subscriptions	-	410	-
Life: Postage & stationery	-	18	-
Life: Other	-	330	-
Life: Website & wifi	-	-	144
Property: Cleaning	859	5612	1262
Property: Garden Equip & Mntce	735	2376	501
Property: Kitchen & catering	74	-	-
Property: Refuse collection	-	1164	-
Property: Repairs & maintenance	421	1351	1985
Property: Tests & inspections	120	186	120
Property: Broadband	-	367	641
Property: Utilities	1955	6386	4603
<b>Total payments</b>	<b>5064</b>	<b>28180</b>	<b>11640</b>
<b>Net receipts/(payments)</b>	<b>3636</b>	<b>419</b>	<b>5622</b>
Cash funds at start of this period	40380	174607	13796
Transfers between funds	(1920)	(3720)	(1700)
<b>Cash funds at end of this period</b>	<b>42096</b>	<b>171306</b>	<b>17718</b>

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

### **4. Endowment funds analysis**

The following Endowment funds are 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
	<hr/>
	<b>56164</b>

The Area Meeting holds within its assets The Betty Desborough Fund, a legacy given specifically for the purposes of Outreach Work 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.