

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

TRUSTEES REPORT FOR YEAR ENDING 31ST DECEMBER 2023

Address: Quaker Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex CB10 1AA

Friends who served as trustees in 2023:

Jacqueline Bartlett

John Capper (Treasurer)

Karl Gibbs

Heather Kent

Jonathan Morrell (Clerk)

Holding Trustees – Friends Trusts Ltd, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

Registered as Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) Charity no. 1194893.

Bankers – Cooperative Bank Ltd. PO Box 260, Delf House, Skelmersdale WN8 6WT and Barclays Bank PLC, 23 High Street, Royston, SG8 9AB

Independent Examiners- Bentens, Abbey House, High Street, Saffron Walden CB10 1AF.

Solicitors – Adams Harrison, Church Street, Saffron Walden.

STRUCTURE GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT.

Thaxted Area Meeting is the main meeting for Church Affairs and is constituted of four Local Quaker Meetings at:

Saffron Walden – membership 47 - average attendance 22

Stansted - membership 7 - average attendance 7

Bardfield - membership 9 - average attendance 7

Dunmow - membership 4 – average attendance 3

We recorded 1 transfer in, 1 transfer out, 3 deaths and 1 resignation of membership. Total membership is 68 the same as 2022. There are approximately 36 attenders.

Each Local Quaker Meeting is responsible for the day-to-day management of its own Meeting House - and in the case of Saffron Walden other local properties - reporting to, and seeking advice from, trustees as appropriate. Financial contributions from each Meeting to Area Meeting funds are agreed annually by Area Meeting in session.

Thaxted Area Meeting operates according to its constitution as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO). The object of the constitution is the furtherance of the general and religious purposes of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain, in Thaxted Area Meeting and beyond.

Appointment of Trustees

Trustees are appointed from its membership by Area Meeting in session following nomination by the Area Meeting Nominations Committee for an initial period of three years. Several Friends agree to renomination after this period. New trustees are provided with a copy of the Constitution (Governing Document), Minutes and supporting papers from the previous year and guided to the Britain Yearly Meeting website for access to the trustees manual and other relevant information.

Area Meeting Nominations committee has worked with the Area Meeting Safeguarding Co-ordinator in 2023 in order to comply with BYM Safeguarding recommendations when appointing trustees.

Other appointments

Area Meeting also appoints a representative and alternate to Meeting for Sufferings, and is invited to appoint representatives to Quaker Life Representative Council, Sibford, Ackworth and Leighton Park Schools General Meetings and a correspondent to Quaker Council for Church and Interfaith Relations. It receives occasional reports from each of these bodies. The Area Meeting also appoints two Friends to serve as trustees for The Greenwood Educational Trust.

FINANCE.

Trustees set financial reserves annually and submit to Area Meeting in session a proposed annual budget. The accounts are examined each year and are approved by the examiner. Accounts are submitted by the Treasurer to Friends House and the Charity Commission.

A Reserves Statement for the year ending December 31st 2023 forms Appendix A to this report.

Margaret Stubbs Memorial Fund. (MSMF)

The Margaret Stubbs Memorial Fund was established for the property at 2 Springhill Road Saffron Walden – a bequest from a Friend Jean Stubbs –and to benefit the Bursary Fund at Friends School Saffron Walden, (latterly Walden School). The closure of the school in 2017 left the fund with a balance of £6,407. A decision made by trustees in 2018 and confirmed in 2019 and 2020 allowed income derived from the rents to be used to support young people in the Area Meeting, the balance at the end of the year to be divided between the Friends Schools Bursaries Fund and the Greenwood Educational Trust a charity whose purpose is to distribute small grants to eligible young people from four Area Meetings in East Anglia for the benefit of their education. Rather than draw on Greenwood Trust funds, grants agreed by Greenwood trustees to be made to young people from Thaxted Area Meeting are found from Thaxted's own income. During 2023 a surplus of £4,600 from the Margaret Stubbs Memorial Fund was awarded jointly to Friends school in Ramallah, on the West Bank in Palestine and Brumanna High School near Beirut to reflect their greater need for funding during the continuing conflict. This decision was recommended by Saffron Walden Friends and approved by Area Meeting.

PROPERTY

2 Springhill Rd. Saffron Walden.

The tenancy to this property, which in 2021 was extended to September 2025, has been beneficial to both the tenants and to the Area Meeting, granting time to Area Meeting to consider the long-term future of the property.

Local Meetings were asked in late 2022 to consider the future of 2 Springhill Rd when the current lease expired. After consultation the following Minute was forwarded to Area Meeting in March 2023:

"We are aware that Stansted friends have already agreed a minute asking Area Meeting to seek legal advice on the possible future use of 2 Springhill Road, Saffron Walden. We agree that it would be prudent for us, as trustees, to take expert legal advice on the implications of the benefactor's letter of intent with regard to the future of the property now that the original purpose is no longer being met. This advice can then be used to help inform a discussion about the future of 2 Springhill Road at Area Meeting on 11th June 2023. We seek AM's approval to pay for this advice."

It is clear from the legal advice received that the letter of wishes from Jean Stubbs about the use of the property has no legal force and does not create any binding legal obligations on the Area Meeting trustees. Her letter was for guidance only with Friends having "discretionary

powers at all times” which can be exercised “with reference to the changing scene in society”. With Friends School now closed, her main wish for the use of 2 Springhill Road cannot be fulfilled.

Given that there is no legal obligation on trustees to sell the property or the allotment, we are content that the existing arrangements should continue for the foreseeable future, with the house being rented out and the income used for educational purposes and the allotment developed for public benefit.

The property (apart from the allotment) has been placed with Arkwright & Co of Saffron Walden for management.

During 2023 the allotment has developed as a resource for use by community groups such as The Community Shed, Dig It and U3A. The allotment has full public liability insurance for third party use.

69 High Street, Saffron Walden

Arkwright & Co of Saffron Walden continue to successfully manage this property on behalf of trustees. They are attempting to complete the leases for both the tenants but it is proving a long and tortuous business owing to continuing difficulties with the long-term tenant on the ground floor.

Meeting Houses

During the lockdowns necessitated by the pandemic, some meetings began to use Zoom as a platform for Meetings for Worship and in some cases this has continued. Friends otherwise prevented from attending in person have found this to be a way of sharing in the life of the meeting.

In 2023 trustees agreed to appoint surveyors to carry out a quinquennial survey on each of the 4 meeting houses.

Saffron Walden Friends

In 2023 our membership numbers 47 with 24 Attenders. 4 of our members live abroad and several others are widespread around the UK. However, the pastoral team attempts to keep in touch where possible.

Since Covid we have continued the practice of ‘blended’ Meetings for Worship using video conference facilities. This enables Friends who are living with disabilities or even living overseas to join us. The average attendance at Meeting is 15 to 20.

Lettings of the meeting house are recovering although have not yet reached pre-Covid levels. Because of the increase in fuel prices, we have had to increase our charges to users.

The meeting house remains a warm and welcoming environment for Friends and users and we are grateful to Helen Gibbs, our warden and Karl Gibbs her husband for work they do on our behalf.

The ‘wilding’ of the Peace Garden, with mown paths and areas set aside for gatherings has proved a great success and is a source of pleasure to Friends and visitors.

We have continued our representation with Churches Together and have been pleased that a representative has been allowed to attend meetings of church leaders.

We have once again placed a wreath of white poppies on the local war memorial and have welcomed representatives of The Royal British Legion to visit the Commonwealth War Grave in the Meeting House burial ground.

Saffron Walden Friends appoint a representative to the World Day of Prayer (previously The Women’s World Day of Prayer.) and in 2023 hosted the meeting welcoming representatives from other churches.

The Children and Young People’s Group, (CYPG) continues to offer a space for families under the guidance of Clare Yerbury the Children and Young People’s Advocate,

In this year there have been 4 families who attend on an irregular basis and 1 family who attend regularly. The number of children has varied from 1 year to 16 years of age. The 16-year-old has begun to attend adult Meeting for Worship. Activities have been decided in discussions with parents and are frequently craft based or using learning from Quaker testimonies.

To comply with the Area Meeting safeguarding policy 2 adults are present during CYPG sessions one whom must be DBS checked.

Our children's and Young Peoples Advocate and members of our Meeting keep in touch with some of the young people who do not attend Meeting with us, via email, text and occasionally in person.

It is greatly appreciated that the Local and Area Meeting continue to offer encouragement and financial support for our children and young people. This year 6 of our young people received grants from The Greenwood Educational Trust.

The safeguarding policy for Young Children and Vulnerable Adults is being reviewed. Our pastoral care team of four has striven to keep in touch regularly with everyone. They have found the work very rewarding and are glad to see people returning to Meeting although some still prefer to use Zoom as we continue to hold blended meetings with a Zoom Meeting on Sunday and Wednesday evenings.

We have been aware of tensions in the meeting with regard to trusteeship and property ownership and recognise that we need to spend time strengthening our community and learning to deal tenderly with one another over our differences,

Stansted Friends

In 2023 our membership numbers 7 with 5 Attenders.

Stansted friends continue to offer the Meeting House as an opportunity for outreach for hirers and visitors.

Early in November 2023 the Meeting hosted a visit by 1st Clavering cubs to help them gain a badge by learning about a religion or faith they knew nothing about before. It proved to be a richly rewarding form of outreach with 14 boy and girl cubs aged between eight and ten taking part along with two cub leaders and one or two parents.

We have continued to meet on Zoom with Friends at Hill House Meeting in Accra, Ghana. This relationship is flourishing as we learn more about each other including how we understand what our Quakerism means to us. Topics for discussion have included Quaker testimonies and how they are inter-related. Most recently Friends held a discussion about the teachings of Christ and how central we consider them to be to Quaker practice. Interestingly, it became apparent that the words of Jesus have greater prominence for Friends in Ghana than perhaps they do for Friends in Britain. We look forward to building on our relationship with Accra friends in the coming year.

Following the death of our clerk in 2022 we reviewed roles and responsibilities across the meeting to make the best use of the talents of members and attenders. This included appointing a new clerking team and assigning specific responsibility for the care of premises, music and fellowship on special occasions, eldership, pastoral care, treasurership, visibility and publicity and the Accra meeting fellowship group.

The Experiment with Light group has continued to meet, normally on the second Saturday of each month. The healing group has also continued to meet. Both groups have provided a safe and confidential space for growth and to offer each other support.

In November we laid an eco-friendly homemade wreath of white poppies in the Garden of Remembrance at St. John's church.

Stansted friends continue to be involved with the local community and contribute to the local newsletter 'The Link' as well as remaining active members of Churches Together.

Bardfield Friends.

In 2023 our membership numbers 7 with 5 Attenders. We were delighted when one of our long-term Attenders was welcomed into membership in June. Our meeting continues to grow and we welcomed 2 new Attenders this year and we have been pleased to welcome Friends from other Meetings.

Our silent worship is frequently deep and vocal ministry thoughtful. We value the period of Afterword at the end of meeting when we can share any thoughts that may have arisen from the silence or from vocal ministry. We especially value the time spent together over coffee in the kitchen. In being able to share with each other not only spiritual insights but also pleasures and concerns from our everyday lives, our small community has grown in trust and understanding.

Because of lapses in the regular readings of Advices and Queries we decided this year that in the future we will arrange for A & Q to be read on the first Sunday of each month. Likewise, we have agreed to hold more regular Meetings for Business.

We intend to start regular Meetings for Learning led by Friends with a particular interest in the chosen topic. In this way we hope to encourage our Attenders to gain better understanding of Quakers.

In this Coronation year one of our members arranged a (very Quakerly!) competition for local schoolchildren to design postage stamps for the new reign and make crowns. A 'coronation' was held in the Meeting House with the local vicar officiating.

We were saddened by the death of a long-term Friend who had, for several years been unable to attend meeting. Her private funeral was held in Brighton and we held a Memorial Meeting for her in April.

The Meeting House continues to be used by groups in the village and from further afield; Heartsong Choir, Bardfield History and Horticultural Societies, Essex Audi Theatre and from time to time, the Parish Council.

Throughout the summer months we are occasionally obliged to leave a notice on the gate saying there will be no Meeting for Worship that day, but by forward planning we can almost always make sure that at least one of us can be there to open up and welcome any visitors. It is a pleasant surprise when someone from the AM or further afield joins us. We are not struggling to keep going but instead rejoice on the days when all of us meet together. We are in good heart.

Dunmow Friends

In 2023 our membership numbers 4 with 2 Attenders.

While a very small meeting, Dunmow Friends have continued to uphold each other in their weekly meetings and play an active role in the life of the Area Meeting. The work of the meeting has devolved very significantly onto a very small group of Friends.

This year we began to consider the future of both the worshipping group at Dunmow and the Meeting House itself which is in a poor state of repair and may need substantial investment to restore it. A group of Friends met with the trustees to begin the process of discernment.

There have been some difficulties this year with the suppliers of electricity as the location of the electric meter has made reading the meter hazardous. We continue to work to resolve this.

There have also been some frustrations with regard to opening a bank account.

The Wren Nursery which is the only source of income except for contributions from Friends continues to use the Meeting House but we are aware of the possibility that this arrangement may have to cease owing to their financial difficulties. While we are not very active we uphold the work of Area Meeting and offer a place for quiet reflection.

PUBLIC BENEFIT

All our Meeting Houses offer public worship each week as well as supporting local community activities principally through meeting house lettings and, where appropriate, the use of our gardens as places of quiet reflection.

SUSTAINABILITY

As well as meeting in person, we have continued to use Zoom and blended meetings where possible, thus helping to limit our carbon footprint by reducing the need to travel.

Where possible we continue in our efforts to reduce our carbon footprint including, for example, Stansted Friends buying energy from renewable sources including a biogas component and Saffron Walden and Bardfield Friends having contracts for green energy supply. Individual Friends remain active in local sustainability initiatives.

SAFEGUARDING

Following Area Meeting's adoption in December 2021 of the BYM Safeguarding Policy and Safeguarding procedures/toolkit, a safeguarding subgroup was approved by AM, to undertake to review and monitor safeguarding matters across all meetings.

Heather Kent was appointed as a trustee in June 2022, and confirmed in her role as AM Safeguarding Co-ordinator from that date. She is also a member of the National Safeguarding Forum for Quakers.

The subgroup has met on three occasions via zoom, and engaged with aspects of the AM Safeguarding Policy and Procedures. Initial focus has been on: DBS matters, including the appointment of an AM DBS Verifier which AM confirmed in June 2022.

- Record keeping, safe storage and qualified/limited access.
- Training via 31:8 online courses for roles deemed as 'essential' under the procedures – Safeguarding Co-ordinator; Clerk to Trustees; DBS Verifier; Pastoral Friends working with children and young adults and adults at risk. The courses have been paid by AM.
- Safer Appointments, including using/adapting the suggested BYM procedure for the appointment of a Trustee and the preparation of Role Descriptions (deemed as essential under the Safeguarding Procedure) for all the notified forthcoming AM appointments.
- This year we have begun to examine the best ways to offer in house training for local meetings using the material in the toolkit. We expect to continue this work next year.
- 2023 is the completion of the first year of the subgroup's work and we have reported to Area Meeting who have approved our report and agreed that we should continue for a further year.

We are appreciative of the support offered by BYM Safeguarding Coordinator Mark Mitchell in the form of updates and bulletins to keep us abreast of the latest legislation. We are pleased that no safeguarding matters/concerns have been notified for 2023.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

- In 2023 our Area Meeting Clerk continued to work closely with the Regional Area Meeting Clerks Network and the Local Development Officer. They have begun to seek ways to work cooperatively across meetings in East Anglia.
- Our trustees were represented at a consultation on the revision of the Trustees Handbook.
- In September 2023 our Area Meeting treasurer attended the residential treasurers conference near Milton Keynes.
- On November 5th all our trustees were present at a special Area Meeting workshop on trusteeship.

TRUSTEES AIMS FOR 2024

Our principal aim as trustees is to further the aims and purposes of The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and the living out of our Testimonies to Simplicity, Truth, Equality, Peace and Sustainability.

We will continue to support the practical and spiritual life of our local meetings as well as making sure we have robust safeguarding arrangements in place across our Area Meeting. In doing so, we will be mindful of some of the areas in which current advice on best practice doesn't accord with our spirit led tradition. We will continue to be open to advice and compromise. Trustees will also explore how AM's nominations process can apply safer appointments practice.

We will provide support to Area Meeting as it seeks to discern the way forward for the long-term future use of 2 Springhill Road and the associated allotment, taking into account legal advice and the wishes of local meetings.

We will continue to support the work of our Local Development Worker and consider ways of working more closely with area meetings across East Anglia.

August 2024

APPENDIX A

Thaxted Area Meeting Reserves December 2022

At the end of 2022 the Area Meeting reserves were:

	Deposits (£)	Investments (£)	Total (£)	Current Account
MSM Account (restricted):	13 600	30 100	43 700	0
Area Meeting	27 500	12 900	40 400	3 100
S Walden :	36 300		36 300	8 900
Stansted		48 500	48 500	14 100
Dunmow	2 900	18 100	21 000	5 300
Bardfield				5 800
Total (excluding Springhill Rd)	66 700	79 500	146 200	34 100

£9 000 was withdrawn from Saffron Walden Reserves in 2022; The value of the existing investments has decreased so the total value has fallen by £13 000 this year.

Restricted Reserves (MSM) are treated separately.

Unrestricted Reserves total: £183 400

For historic buildings it is recommend that 2% of the insured value is kept in reserves.

Excluding Springhill Road, the insured value of the AMs property is 4 600 000.

2% of this is 92 000; 3% would be £138 000

Stansted also has £15 000 on long term loan to Green Pastures

Likely expenditure not covered from current income is:

Dunmow: £15 000 for central heating

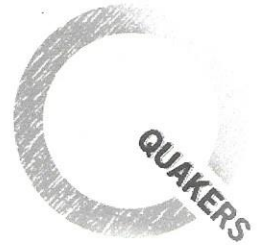
Saffron Walden: some thousands dealing with the damp cellar in 69a

£50-60 000 replacing heating system in the next 10 years

Suggested Format for Reserves:

Meeting	Unforeseen Emergency 2% valuation	Uncertain Income 2 months	Expected Commitment	Uneven Cash Flow	Total Required	Actual
Bardfield	11 800	1 000			12 800	5 800
Dunmow	10 500	1 000	15 000 (central heating)		11 500	26 300
Saffron Walden	47 500 69 8 800 69a 5 800	11 600	In due course 55000 (Heating)		59 100 8 800 5 800	45 200
Stansted	3% 10 900	1 800			12 700	62 600
Area Meeting	0	1 000	0	4 000	5 000	43 500
Total	95 300	16 400	70 000		115 700	183 400

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)



THAXTED AREA MEETING

Annual Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2023

The report and accompanying accounts cover the financial affairs of Thaxted Area Meeting consolidated with those of its four constituent meetings, namely Bardfield, Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted Local Meetings.

As a charity the full title is "Thaxted Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain", Thaxted Area Meeting in short, Registered number 1194893.

Although the Area Meeting, through its trustees, is ultimately responsible in practice the care and maintenance of the Meeting Houses and other properties is undertaken by the Local Meetings and this is reflected in their accounts.

The Trustees have an agreed reserves policy and review the reserves each year.

All the accounts have been examined by a qualified person not connected with any of the meetings.

John Capper, Treasurer
18 Landscape View, Saffron Walden, CB11 4AU

Legal and Administrative Information

Constitution and Purpose

The Area Meeting is a Charitable Incorporated Organisation, charity number 1194893. Its objects are defined in its constitution, in particular the furtherance of the general religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

The principal activity is the holding of Meetings for Worship in the constituent local meetings of Bardfield, Dunmow, Saffron Walden and Stansted.

The affairs of the Area Meeting are governed by "Quaker Faith and Practice", the Book of Discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting. There are Memoranda of Understanding with the Local Meetings.

The members of the Area Meeting are all those persons whose names are recorded in its official register. The Managing Trustees are appointed by a Meeting for worship for Business of the Area Meeting which also appoints a representative and an alternate to serve on Meeting for Sufferings, the representative body which advises the Trustee body for the centrally managed work of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Address for Correspondence

Margaret Somerville, 54 Glebe Avenue, Braintree, Essex, CM7 4SR

Meeting House Addresses

Bardfield Friends Meeting House, Brook Street, Great Bardfield, Essex, CM7 4SR
Dunmow Friends Meeting House, New Street, Great Dunmow, Essex, CM6 1BH
Saffron Walden Friends Meeting House, High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1AA
Stansted Friends Meeting House, 87 Chapel Hill, Stansted, Essex, CM24 8AE

Managing Trustees.

The following Friends served in 2023:

Jacqueline Bartlett, Clerk, 4 The Green Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 2DS
John Capper, Treasurer, 18 Landscape View, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB11 4AU
Jonathan Morrell, 4 Priory Court, Apton Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 3SF
Karl Gibbs, 69a High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1AA
Heather Kent 13, The Spike, Radwinter Road, Saffron Walden, CB11 3GA

Bankers

Co-operative Bank, P.O. Box 260, Delf House, Southway, Skelmersdale, WN8 6WT
Barclays Bank PLC, 23 High Street, Royston, SG8 9AB

Holding Trustee

Friends Trusts Ltd, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Accounting Policies

Basis of accounting.

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Charity Commission Statement of Recommended Practice SORP 2015 (Statement of Financial Activities).

Income and expenditure.

Contributions, grants, legacies, interest, dividends, and rents are all treated as income in the year in which they are received. Gift Aid recovered is treated as income for the year in which the donations are made.

Land and buildings.

The properties owned by the Area Meeting comprising the Meeting Houses and Wardens' accommodation are held for the furtherance of the Area Meeting's charitable objects.

There are two investment properties, 69 High Street, Saffron Walden and 2, Springhill Road, Saffron Walden.

On the recommendation of the Quaker Stewardship Committee of Britain Yearly Meeting, the capital value of the properties is included in the accounts. The value of the properties is based on the insurance value, which is reviewed every year by the Methodist Insurance Company. The contents of the Meeting Houses are written off at purchase.

Reserves.

The Reserves are a little less, primarily due to a drop in the values of investments. They are in line with the reserves policy and are reviewed each year.

Local Meetings.

In accordance with guidance from the Charity Commission and the Quaker Stewardship Committee the unrestricted funds of Local Meetings are shown as designated funds.

Presentation of the Accounts

The accounts have been prepared using Data Developments "Finance Co-ordinator", the software package recommended by ACAT (The Association of Church Accounts and Treasurers). This does not support a spreadsheet showing in one table a breakdown of income and expenditure for the Area Meeting and all its constituent Local Meetings, so these have been printed separately.

Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the consolidated accounts of Thaxted Area Quaker Meeting for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's 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 Commission 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 presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from 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

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 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



15/5/2024

Name: Amanda Prentice

Address: Bentens, Abbey House, 51 High Street, Saffron Walden, Essex, CB10 1AF

THAXTED AREA MEETING
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2023

	TOTAL UN- RESTRICTED FUNDS	PRIOR YEAR TOTAL FUNDS
Income and endowments from		
Donations and legacies	35548	34082
Income from charitable activities	66249	51688
Investments	2153	1858
Other	-	130
	<u>103949</u>	<u>87758</u>
Expenditure		
Raising funds		
Expenditure on charitable activities	43635	50200
Other expenditure	53654	49582
	<u>97664</u>	<u>99782</u>
Total expenditure		
	<u>6286</u>	<u>(12024)</u>
Excess income over expenditure		
	<u>1386</u>	<u>(15946)</u>
Gains/losses on investments		
	<u>7672</u>	<u>(27970)</u>
Net income/expenditure		
	<u>615377</u>	<u>1276125</u>
Other recognised gains/losses		
Gains on revaluations		
	<u>623049</u>	<u>1248155</u>
Net movement in funds		
	<u>4866090</u>	<u>3589965</u>
Total fixed assets b/fwd		
Total other funds b/fwd	<u>240043</u>	<u>268053</u>
Total b/fwd	<u>5106133</u>	<u>3857978</u>
Total c/fwd	<u>5729182</u>	<u>5106133</u>

**THAXTED AREA MEETING
BALANCE SHEET - DETAILED
PERIOD 1 JANUARY - 31 DECEMBER 2023**

	As at 31/12/2023	As at 31/12/2022
Fixed Assets		
Saffron Walden Meeting House	2730141	2375212
Stansted Meeting House	398155	361653
Bardfield Meeting House	647893	588452
Dunmow Meeting House	580404	527155
69A High Street (Warden's House)	334006	290584
69 High Street	505675	439935
2 Springhill Road	285193	283099
Total Fixed Assets	5481467	4866090

Current Assets**Designated**

Co-op Account Saffron Walden	9705	8924
COIF Deposit account Saffron Walden	11742	10372
COIF Investment Fund Accumulation Units	29510	26037
MSM Account Springhill Road Barclays	33	101
MSM COIF Deposit Account	13203	13614
Smith & Nephew MSM Shares	30140	30140
Co-op Account Thaxted Area Meeting	4601	3087
AM COIF Deposit Account	6818	6588
M&G Charibond Units AM	971	940
BMO Units AM	12744	12042
AM COIF Accumulation Units	23757	20962
Dunmow Friends Provident/BSO Investment	19924	18150
Dunmow Petty Cash	39	34
Dunmow Co-op Account	5662	5382
Bardfield Co-op Bank	2932	3087
Bardfield Triodos Bank	2952	2882
Stansted Barclays Account	57982	14191
Stansted CAF Fixed Interest Investment	-	48509
Stansted Green Pastures	15000	15000
Total Current Assets	247715	240043
Net Asset surplus (Deficit)	5729182	5106133

RESERVES

Starting balance	5106133	3857975
Excess/deficit in period	7672	(12024)
Other gains/(losses) in the period	-	(15946)
Gains/(losses) on revaluation of fixed assets	615377	1276125
Rounding diff	-	3
	<u>5729182</u>	<u>5106133</u>

Thaxted Area Meeting

Analysis of income and expenditure Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Income and endowments						
Donations and legacies						
200 - Donations via LM	—	14,438.61	—	—	14,438.61	15,665.13
201 - Collections	—	12,177.61	—	—	12,177.61	10,692.00
202 - Gift Aid Reclaim	—	5,444.71	—	—	5,444.71	5,835.00
631 - Bardfield Contributions Gift Aidable	—	1,300.00	—	—	1,300.00	1,105.00
632 - Bardfield Contributions non Gift Aidable	—	45.00	—	—	45.00	295.00
636 - Bardfield Gift Aid	—	1,454.64	—	—	1,454.64	—
701 - Dunmow Contributions	—	685.00	—	—	685.00	490.00
706 - Dunmow Miscellaneous	—	2.00	—	—	2.00	—
Donations and legacies Totals	—	35,547.57	—	—	35,547.57	34,082.13
Income from charitable activities						
203 - Lettings	—	26,001.00	—	—	26,001.00	19,054.00
204 - 69 High Street Rent	—	16,354.94	—	—	16,354.94	12,134.66
500 - Contributions from LMs	—	1,260.00	—	—	1,260.00	1,890.00
501 - Dividends Thaxted AM	—	495.98	—	—	495.98	386.10
560 - Rent, 2 Springhill Road	—	9,180.00	—	—	9,180.00	9,000.00
633 - Bardfield Hirings	—	1,500.00	—	—	1,500.00	1,815.00
702 - Dunmow Hirings	—	—	—	—	—	600.00
705 - Dunmow payments from Wrens	—	1,758.67	—	—	1,758.67	222.27
906 - Stansted Lettings	—	9,662.00	—	—	9,662.00	6,972.00
906 - Stansted Other Income	—	36.00	—	—	36.00	—
Income from charitable activities Totals	—	66,248.59	—	—	66,248.59	52,074.03
Investments						
190 - Interest SW COIF Deposit Account	—	344.21	—	—	344.21	26.42
191 - AM COIF Deposit Account	—	254.48	—	—	254.48	65.62
561 - Dividend Smith & Nephew	—	829.40	—	—	829.40	857.89
562 - MSM CCLA Deposit Account Interest	—	459.07	—	—	459.07	131.54
630 - Bardfield Triodos Interest	—	59.02	—	—	59.02	2.04
637 - Triodos Extra Interest	—	11.57	—	—	11.57	—
703 - Dunmow Business Investor Interest	—	—	—	—	—	3.59
704 - Dunmow Treasurers Trust A/c Interest	—	—	—	—	—	1.6
907 - Green Pastures Investment Income	—	450.00	—	—	450.00	450.00
Investments Totals	—	2,407.75	—	—	2,407.75	1,538.71
NET GAINS ON INVESTED FUNDS	—	1131.00	—	—	1131.00	—
Other income						
205 - The Friend (Repayments)	—	—	—	—	—	130.00
Other income Totals	—	—	—	—	—	130.00
Income and endowments Grand totals	—	105,334.91	—	—	105,334.91	87,824.87

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Expenditure						
Raising funds						
322 - 69 High Street	—	375.00	—	—	375.00	—
Raising funds Totals	—	375.00	—	—	375.00	—
Expenditure on charitable activities						
301 - Donations to BYM	—	15,645.50	—	—	15,645.50	15,237.50
302 - Donations to Quaker Charities	—	7,187.50	—	—	7,187.50	8,157.50
303 - Donations to non Quaker Charities	—	4,237.50	—	—	4,237.50	2,525.00
304 - Grants agreed by Local Meeting	—	—	—	—	—	100.00
325 - Annual Contribution to Thaxted AM	—	720.00	—	—	720.00	1,080.00
327 - Annual Subscriptions eg CCLI, CTSW	—	460.30	—	—	460.30	225.00
550 - Courses and Conferences Thaxted AM	—	608.00	—	—	608.00	402.00
551 - Child Protection Fee	—	145.00	—	—	145.00	129.00
552 - Examination of Accounts	—	822.00	—	—	822.00	780.00
553 - AM Officer & Trustee Expenses	—	186.82	—	—	186.82	108.37
554 - Annual Subs Living Wage, QICJ	—	149.20	—	—	149.20	142.00
592 - Grants to Young Friends	—	1,350.00	—	—	1,350.00	1,150.00
594 - Grant to Greenwood Trust	—	—	—	—	—	1,000.00
595 - Grants to Quaker Educational Bodies	—	5,300.00	—	—	5,300.00	5,600.00
640 - Bardfield Cleaner	—	845.00	—	—	845.00	590.00
641 - Bardfield Cleaning Materials	—	1.69	—	—	1.69	9.01
642 - Bardfield Fire and windows maintenance	—	63.48	—	—	63.48	94.00
643 - Bardfield Electricity	—	543.82	—	—	543.82	500.78
644 - Bardfield Water	—	156.28	—	—	156.28	163.42
645 - Bardfield Gardener	—	240.00	—	—	240.00	370.00
646 - Bardfield Insurance	—	875.77	—	—	875.77	796.52
647 - Bardfield contribution to AM	—	60.00	—	—	60.00	90.00
751 - Dunmow Water	—	267.94	—	—	267.94	273.52
752 - Dunmow Electricity	—	543.24	—	—	543.24	1,323.71
753 - Dunmow Garden	—	225.00	—	—	225.00	275.00
754 - Dunmow Maintenance & Repairs	—	—	—	—	—	962.60
755 - Dunmow Fire Protection	—	72.42	—	—	72.42	67.92
756 - Dunmow Miscellaneous	—	26.00	—	—	26.00	3.60
757 - Dunmow Insurance	—	786.40	—	—	786.40	715.24
758 - Dunmow Contribution to AM	—	240.00	—	—	240.00	360.00
801 - Solicitor Fee	—	870.00	—	—	870.00	—
953 - Stansted Repairs and Maintenance	—	1,131.00	—	—	1,131.00	1,461.67
957 - Stansted Contribution to Area Meeting	—	240.00	—	—	240.00	360.00
958 - Stansted Contribution to BYM	—	90.00	—	—	90.00	2,090.00
959 - Stansted Donations	—	250.00	—	—	250.00	3,017.69
962 - Stansted Furniture & equipment	—	—	—	—	—	39.99
963 - Fire & windows maintenance	—	165.00	—	—	165.00	—
Expenditure on charitable activities Totals	—	44,504.86	—	—	44,504.86	50,201.04

	Unrestricted	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	This year	Total Last year
Other expenditure						
300 - Warden Wages	—	22,836.47	—	—	22,836.47	22,196.23
305 - Insurance Saffron Walden LM	—	3,034.62	—	—	3,034.62	2,734.96
306 - Repairs and Maintenance Meeting House	—	1,418.72	—	—	1,418.72	1,390.80
307 Repairs and Maintenance 69A	—	20.99	—	—	20.99	677.23
308 - Equipment	—	948.21	—	—	948.21	241.97
309 - Garden	—	1,467.50	—	—	1,467.50	2,360.30
310 - Electricity	—	6,489.41	—	—	6,489.41	5,437.32
311 - Water/Sewerage	—	804.88	—	—	804.88	884.42
312 - Council Tax	—	2,579.66	—	—	2,579.66	2,485.89
314 - Cleaning Materials	—	392.13	—	—	392.13	484.59
315 - Catering	—	130.26	—	—	130.26	33.66
316 - Publicity inc Newsletter, outreach	—	238.20	—	—	238.20	476.08
317 - Parking Permits	—	106.00	—	—	106.00	84.00
318 - Bookkeeper charge	—	453.00	—	—	453.00	300.00
319 - Website and Zoom	—	730.08	—	—	730.08	584.12
320 - Internet inc licenses, not zoom	—	313.20	—	—	313.20	532.09
321 - The Friend	—	97.00	—	—	97.00	219.00
324 - Window Cleaning	—	360.00	—	—	360.00	360.00
326 - Stationary & Postage	—	235.94	—	—	235.94	78.59
328 - Telephone	—	144.00	—	—	144.00	—
330 - Plaques	—	249.97	—	—	249.97	374.97
332 - Humidifier Expenses	—	960.00	—	—	960.00	—
590 - Springhill Road Insurance	—	548.22	—	—	548.22	273.06
591 - Springhill Road Repairs and Maintenance	—	2,878.85	—	—	2,878.85	1,328.00
596 - Springhill Rad Garden	—	—	—	—	—	450.00
951 - Stansted Cleaner	—	1,260.00	—	—	1,260.00	1,651.00
952 - Stansted Materials & Supplies	—	189.50	—	—	189.50	122.64
954 - Stansted Water & Sewage	—	232.76	—	—	232.76	343.61
955 - Stansted Gas, electricity, wifi	—	1,699.29	—	—	1,699.29	1,613.68
956 - Stansted Insurance	—	563.14	—	—	563.14	512.18
960 - Stansted other costs of Quaker activities	—	492.01	—	—	492.01	4
961 - Stansted Gardener	—	910.00	—	—	910.00	875.00
Other expenditure Totals	—	52,784.01	—	—	52,784.01	49,582.39
Expenditure Grand totals	—	97,663.87	—	—	97,663.87	99,783.43

Thaxted Area Meeting
Statement of Assets and Liabilities (by code)
As at: 31 December 2023

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Fixed assets - Heritage assets						
001 : Saffron Walden Meeting House	—	2,730,141.00	—	—	2,730,141.00	2,375,212.00
002 : Stansted Meeting House	—	398,155.00	—	—	398,155.00	361,653.00
003 : Bardfield Meeting House	—	647,893.00	—	—	647,893.00	588,452.00
004 : Dunmow Meeting House	—	580,404.00	—	—	580,404.00	527,155.00
Total	—	4,356,593.00	—	—	4,356,593.00	3,852,472.00
Fixed assets - Tangible assets						
005 : 69A High Street (Wardens House)	—	334,006.00	—	—	334,006.00	290,584.00
006 : 69 High Street	—	505,675.00	—	—	505,675.00	439,935.00
007 : 2 Springhill Road	—	285,193.00	—	—	285,193.00	283,099.20
Total	—	1,124,874.00	—	—	1,124,874.00	1,013,618.20
Current assets - Cash at bank and in hand						
100 : Co-op Account Saffron Walden LM	—	9,704.90	—	—	9,704.90	8,924.07
250 : MSM Barclays Account Springhill Road	—	33.40	—	—	33.40	101.07
350 : Co-op Account Thaxted Area Meeting	—	2,931.75	—	—	2,931.75	3,086.79
773 : Dunmow Petty Cash	—	38.89	—	—	38.89	33.89
774 : Dunmow Co-op Account	—	5,661.93	—	—	5,661.93	5,382.26
870 : Bardfield Co-op bank	—	4,601.09	—	—	4,601.09	3,087.49
871 : Bardfield Triodos Bank	—	2,952.16	—	—	2,952.16	2,881.57
970 : Stansted Barclays Account	—	57,981.59	—	—	57,981.59	14,190.95
Total	—	83,905.71	—	—	83,905.71	37,688.09
Current assets - Investments						
104 : COIF Deposit Account Saffron Walden	—	11,741.23	—	—	11,741.23	10,372.29
105 : COIF Investment Fund Accumulation Units	—	29,509.56	—	—	29,509.56	26,037.06
251 : MSM COIF Deposit Account	—	13,202.95	—	—	13,202.95	13,613.88
252 : Smith & Nephew MSM Shares	—	30,140.00	—	—	30,140.00	30,140.00
351 : AM COIF deposit Account	—	6,817.97	—	—	6,817.97	6,588.22
352 : M & G Charibond Units AM	—	970.77	—	—	970.77	940.13
353 : BMO Units now Columbia Threadneedle AM	—	12,744.26	—	—	12,744.26	12,042.34
354 : AM COIF Accumulation Units	—	23,757.19	—	—	23,757.19	20,961.59
772 : Dunmow Friends Provident/BSO Investment	—	19,924.47	—	—	19,924.47	18,149.69
971 : Stansted CAF Fixed Interest Investment	—	—	—	—	—	48,509.31
972 : Stansted Green Pastures	—	15,000.00	—	—	15,000.00	15,000.00
Total	—	163,808.40	—	—	163,808.40	202,354.51
Net total assets	—	5,729,181.11	—	—	5,729,181.11	5,103,132.8

Class and nominal code	General	Designated	Restricted	Endowment	Total	Last year
Represented by						
Designated - AM	—	1,846.04	—	—	1,846.04	(1,432.26)
Designated - AMAcc	—	23,213.80	—	—	23,213.80	23,213.80
Designated - AMDep	—	6,844.66	—	—	6,844.66	6,590.18
Designated - BMO	—	14,287.16	—	—	14,287.16	14,222.98
Designated - Bardfield	—	655,446.25	—	—	655,446.25	594,421.06
Designated - Dunmow	—	606,029.29	—	—	606,029.29	550,720.84
Designated - MSM	—	281,455.39	—	—	281,455.39	278,970.19
Designated - MSMDep	—	12,612.34	—	—	12,612.34	13,482.34
Designated - MandG	—	1,056.97	—	—	1,056.97	1,026.33
Designated - SWLM	—	3,620,751.00	—	—	3,620,751.00	3,151,062.46
Designated - SmithNeph	—	34,524.00	—	—	34,524.00	34,524.00
Designated - Stansted	—	471,136.59	—	—	471,136.59	439,353.26
Designated - ZPension	—	(22.38)	—	—	(22.38)	(22.38)
Total	—	5,729,181.11	—	—	5,729,181.11	5,106,132.80

Notes to the Accounts

Trustee Remuneration

Trustees were not remunerated.

Trustee Expenses

There were no expenses claimed by the Trustees in 2023.

Related Party Transactions

There were no related party transactions.

Ex Gratia Payments

There were no ex gratia payments.

Contributions to BYM and other charities.

Local Meetings agree any grants to Britain Yearly Meeting.

Saffron Walden has weekly collections. The charity to be collected for on a particular week is agreed at a local meeting for business and individual Friends make contributions if they wish to support the charity concerned; the last collection each month is for central funds. Occasionally a local meeting for business will agree to support a particular appeal, often for Local Meeting Building Appeals, from Local Meeting funds; these are shown separately in the accounts under "Grants agreed by Local Meeting".

Thaxted Area Meeting
Receipts and payments
Selected period: 01 January 2023 to 31 December 2023

Thaxted Area Meeting

Note

	From To	01 January 2023 31 December 2023	01 January 2022 31 December 2022
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Income and endowments

Income from charitable activities

Contributions from LMs

Dividends Thaxted AM

Total Income from charitable activities

	1,260.00	1,890.00
	495.98	386.10
	1,755.98	2,276.10
	1,755.98	2,276.10

Total income and endowments

Expenditure

Expenditure on charitable activities

Courses and Conferences Thaxted AM

Child Protection Fee

Examination of Accounts

AM Officer & Trustee Expenses

Annual Subs Living Wage, QICJ

Total Expenditure on charitable activities

	608.00	402.00
	145.00	129.00
	822.00	780.00
	186.82	108.37
	149.20	142.00
	1,911.02	1,561.37
	1,911.02	1,561.37

Total expenditure

Excess of Income and endowments over Expenditure

	(155.04)	714.73
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Report of the Independent Examiner

I report on the consolidated accounts of Thaxted Area Quaker Meeting for the year ended 31 December 2023, which are set out below.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts.

The charity's 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 Commission 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 presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, seeking explanations from 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

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 130 of the 2011 Act; and to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with the accounting requirements of the 2011 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.



15/5/2024

Name: Amanda Prentice

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