

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

England & Wales · Charity number 224571

Details

Other names	SOCIETY OF FRIENDS- CHARITIES ADMINISTERED IN CONNEXION WITH THE WARWICKSHIRE MONTHLY MEETING, CENTRAL ENGLAND QUAKERS
Status	Registered
Legal form	Other
Registered	1966-10-14
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

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Activities

Objects: SEE INDIVIDUAL CONSTITUENTS

Activities: Central England Area Quaker Meeting is one of the constituent Area Meetings of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain, established for the advancement of religion. Its principal activities are the holding of meetings for worship in its constituent local meetings and the support of its various branches, including Peacemakers (West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project) and Peace Hub.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Buildings/facilities/open Space, Provides Services, Provides Advocacy/advice/information
- **What:** General Charitable Purposes, Education/training, Religious Activities, Environment/conservation/heritage
- **Who:** Children/young People, Elderly/old People, Other Charities Or Voluntary Bodies, Other Defined Groups

Geography

- **Area of benefit:** AREA COVERED BY THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING
- Birmingham City
- Coventry City
- Dudley
- Sandwell
- Solihull
- Walsall
- Warwickshire
- Wolverhampton
- Worcestershire

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£1,624,763	£1,653,235	£9,817,781	24
2023-12-31	£1,599,362	£1,545,210	£9,251,993	24
2022-12-31	£1,286,476	£1,428,201	£8,812,013	22
2021-12-31	£919,650	£1,125,456	£9,263,934	24
2020-12-31	£1,023,661	£1,491,686	£9,016,428	29

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
ANNE ULLATHORNE		2023-06-01
Carole Ann Pannell		2021-09-18
Esther Boyd		2025-04-24
Huw Davies		2024-01-27
James Edward Green		2019-07-01
John Henry Kimberley		2026-01-01
Pamela Frances Rutter		2025-11-22
Peter John Ullathorne		2018-10-20
Sandra Berry		2024-03-20
Sharon Karima Brooke		2025-01-25
Steven Geoffrey Pullan		2022-01-15

Linked charities

- MARIA CATHERINE ALBRIGHT (224571-1)
- ATHERSTONE MEETING HOUSE TRUST (224571-2)
- BULL STREET MEETING HOUSE AND BURIAL GROUND (224571-3)
- TAMWORTH MEETING HOUSE (224571-5)
- WEST BIRMINGHAM FRIENDS HALLS (224571-6)
- WEDNESBURY MEETING HOUSE (224571-7)
- CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING OF THE RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (224571-8)

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 224571

Accounts

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

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THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities
Working charity name	Central England Quakers (CEQ)
Charity registration number	224571
Area meeting office	40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
The Trustees	Christine Bagnall (until January 2025) Sandra Berry (from March 2024) Esther Boyd (from April 2025) Sharon Karima Brooke (from January 2025) Huw Davies James Green John Kimberley (until May 2024) Robert Morris (until December 2024) Carole Pannell Steven Pullan Gillian Smith (until January 2025) Lyndon Thomas (from January – September 2024) Anne Ullathorne Peter Ullathorne
Auditors	BSN Chartered Accountants 3B Swallowfield Courtyard Wolverhampton Road Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2JG
Nominee for Land	Friends Trusts Limited 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Nominee for Investment	Rathbone Greenbank Investments 10 Queens Square Bristol BS1 4NT
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ Unity Trust Bank, PO Box 7193, Planetary Rd, Willenhall, WV1 9DG
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards 3 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2JB

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

A Introduction

Central England Area Meeting trustees are pleased to report on our work in 2024.

During 2024 trustees recruited and appointed Helen Waters as business support administrator to work alongside Sarah Barker, our principal officer. With these two posts in place trustees are happy to report that all contact with the office in Bull Street is dealt with promptly and professionally.

The main work of trustees this year has been:

- Maintaining the good governance of the charity.
- Rationalising some of our property so that it does not become a liability
- Continuing to support the work of our AM in delivering the vision "What does Love require of us"
- Managing our finances and seeking efficient and effective ways to manage the charity in the future.
- Liaising with the Area Meeting about charitable activities and priorities.

B Structure, management and governance

The principal activity of the Area Meeting is the holding of Meetings for Worship which are open to all who wish to attend in its Local Meetings, together with the other Branches and related projects which support the charity's objects in an area roughly equivalent to the West Midlands boundaries. There is an office in Bull Street Meeting House in the centre of Birmingham. There is a Principal Officer and a Business Support Administrator who work across the charity business. There are other employees who work within specific branches (projects) or local meetings.

The Charity's Governing Document defines the way it is organised and managed.

This report and the financial statements incorporate the affairs of the LMs (Local Meetings) and Branches. There are currently 14 active Local Meetings (LMs) which make up the Central England Area Meeting. These being:

Local Meetings

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Barnt Green and Redditch | • Kings Heath |
| • Bournville | • Selly Oak |
| • Bull Street | • Solihull |
| • Cotteridge | • Stourbridge |
| • Coventry | • Sutton Coldfield |
| • Hall Green | • Walsall |
| • Hartshill | • Warwick |

There are 5 'Branches', which are projects or committees set up to further specific pieces of work related to Quaker concerns. These are:

Branches

- West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers)
- Quaker Christmas Parcels
- Community Justice Group*
- Peace Committee*
- Peace Hub

**During the year the Peace Committee and Community Justice Group laid themselves down as formal 'branches' of the charity. The Community Justice Group continues its activities much as before but now as a committee of the Area Meeting and without its own bank account. The Peace Committee has joined with the Peace Hub in order to continue to support this area of concern.*

Membership

The total number of members at the end of 2024 was 409 (2023 was 417). At the end of 2024 there were also 225 recorded adult attenders (2023 was 203 or 245 including children). 39 children were recorded at the end of 2024 (2023 was 42).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by Area Meeting, on the basis of nominations proposed by the CEQ Nominations Committee. (This process is a key part of the Quaker Business Method, and the CEQ Nominations Committee is responsible for considering all vacancies for voluntary roles, and for recommending “names” to area meeting. These “names” are then appointed or declined at the next area business meeting). In line with Quaker practice, trustees are appointed for a three-year term, which can be extended for a second “triennium” by mutual agreement between the trustee and Area Meeting. On occasions trustees serve a third term.

New trustees receive an induction “briefing” and are given the opportunity to attend a training course for trustees facilitated by the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, as well as events provided by Quakers in Britain.

Trustees are responsible for monitoring the performance of the charity and managing its activities. In 2024 there were 11 Trustees and they met 4 times (February, May, August and November). Meetings took the form of joint face to face and online meetings (blended). There was also an ‘Away Day’ held in May which offered trustees the space and opportunity to consider what is happening nationally within other AM’s – some of whom are joining together, further explore the recommendations from the Special Working group on ‘What Does Love Require of Us’ and review our governing document.

In the Quaker tradition, decisions about policies, charitable activities and priorities are taken by the members of the Area Meeting at regular business meetings, and not by the charity’s trustees who provide advice and guidance and take responsibility for the statutory and legal duties of the charity. Area business meetings are open to all members of the Area Meeting and with agreement to interested attenders. Local Meetings appoint representatives to ensure effective representation. All Local Meetings receive minutes of the business meetings and can comment freely on the work of CEQ.

In 2024 there were 9 Area Meetings for business, plus 2 Devotional Meetings.

Trading Subsidiary

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of CEQ. This Quaker owned and managed conference centre is located at Bull Street Friends Meeting House. Directors are appointed by CEQ Area Meeting; there are at least two CEQ trustee Directors and at least four non-trustee Directors. The strategic vision for Priory Rooms is described in a “Purpose and Principles” document, and the relationship between the company and CEQ trustees is set out in a detailed Management Agreement.

C Objectives and Activities

Quaker faith is rooted in the belief of living our lives according to our spiritual experience. This is the basis of Quaker testimonies to peace, truth, simplicity, equality and sustainability, which guide Quaker behaviour, work and witness.

The object of Central England 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 Central England Area and beyond.

This includes:

- i. Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings both in the area of Central England Area Meeting and beyond;
- ii. Spreading the message of Quakers and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Religious Society;
- iii. Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad;
- iv. Funding the concerns that Quaker meetings in the area of Central England Area Meeting or beyond have adopted or agreed to support;
- v. Providing the pastoral care of individual members and Attenders including assistance to those in need and for education;
- vi. Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places for public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world;
- vii. Administering and maintaining the organisation of Central England Area Meeting and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

All 14 LMs and 3 Branches have contributed to the furtherance of the charity's objectives through:

Worship

All of the Local Meeting's hold at least one Meeting for Worship each week on Sunday. Some meetings are blended (offering Friends the opportunity to join online as well as in person), others are in person only. There are also additional mid-week meetings and those which take place only online.

Intervisitation Sunday has been encouraged as a way of worshiping together as well as visiting another local meeting occasionally. We are pleased that 4 of our local meetings have children as part of their meeting.

As well as worshiping in our meeting houses we sometimes take our witness outside and worship in local parks or streets.

The reading of Advices and Queries remains an integral part of Meeting for Worship, and passages are read regularly throughout the year. They remain an important framework within which Friends try to live their lives, and continue to inspire as a form of spiritual witness.

Friends have enjoyed area Devotional Meetings in Stourbridge and Hartshill, providing an opportunity to visit Meeting Houses which might be further away, share spiritual companionship and to socialise with those who are perhaps seen less often.

Special meetings have continued this year, such as a wedding in August, a same sex marriage in September and Christmas Day meetings for worship, some involving readings and carols.

Meetings for Learning have explored topics such as 'What does it mean to be a Quaker?' and a bible study group have explored women in the Bible and considered the text of 1 Corinthians.

Worship and discussion groups explored Quaker Faith and Practice (with additional material from The Friend), the Book of Discipline - Marriage proposals and explored topics of Diversity and Accessibility.

Spiritual journey groups have met, including The Soup Group and the Quaker Faith and Practice Group, and some have welcomed new participants.

Some Local Meetings, in close proximity to one another, have joined together on occasion and 2 also held a Kindlers event entitled 'Living Adventurously'. [Kindlers work to rekindle the power of Quaker worship by renewing and deepening Quaker spiritual practices.] Another Kindlers workshop on vocal ministry was organised in June by one LM, who invited 3 other LM's to join them. This was a positive experience that helped Friends gain a fresh perspectives on ministry.

A 'Fox 400 Pilgrimage' took place across south Birmingham, commemorating 400 years since the birth of George Fox, the founder of the Religious Society of Friends. It has been particularly poignant for Central England Friends as George Fox was born in Drayton-in-the-clay (now Fenny Drayton) which is part of the Central England Area Meeting. Talks, displays, exhibits, guided walks, creative reflection sessions and film showings also marked the occasion. The children's group of one LM developed an animated film for the anniversary.

New premises for one of the Local Meetings has brought challenges and opportunities.

Kenilworth Worshipping group was laid down in June due to dwindling numbers.

Visits to Friends who were ill and housebound have provided comfort and companionship, as well as opportunities for shared worship. Meetings are pleased to be able to help those who are struggling due to illness or age to continue to be a part of the whole.

During 2024 we have been pleased to welcome new members and attenders, as well as mourning the deaths of several devoted Friends.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

Children's Meeting

Three Local Meetings have children's meetings most weeks. Another has a monthly children's group. Young people from five Local Meetings attend sessions of the Area Meeting youth group. Stourbridge children's group chooses two of the four charities which the Meeting supports with special collections over the year and produced an animated film celebrating the 400th anniversary of George Fox's birth. Selly Oak children's meeting enjoyed stories, craft, cooking, gardening and outdoor play and went on a theatre trip. Cotteridge children's meeting has a large age range - they hope to create within their Meeting an intergenerational community where all feel welcome.

Community

Film showings once a month, including one on the life of George Fox as part of Quaker week have proved a popular way of engaging with Friends and the local community. Activities during Quaker Week also included shared meals with other churches and regular FaceBook posts sharing information.

The Community Café at Warwick is open 5 mornings a week.

Shared lunches, 'joy Fridays', picnics, walks and breakfasts, as well as friends sharing their spiritual journey, provides a good way of building a stronger sense of community.

"Desert Island Discs" events have been held by one LM, each followed by a shared lunch. In addition to sharing Friends' music choices the real value of these events is being able to listen to the life journeys of the 'castaways'.

Cards are often sent to Friends in need of support and one meeting comes together each month over coffee to write these.

Quaker history exhibitions, talks about art and nature have proved a welcome way of engaging Friends and the community.

One local meeting had an 'Away Day' and had a facilitated exploration of the question 'What does deep hope look like for Quakers in 2024'. Friends found the experience rewarding and challenging and were touched by the generous approach of Friends in another local meeting that hosted them. It was felt to be a warm expression of Quaker community.

Trips and outings, such as Harvington Hall and the Black Country Living Museum, are both rewarding experiences and a good opportunity for nurturing friendships.

A group of Friends visited the 'Victorian Radicals' Exhibition at Birmingham Museum during February, and found this an interesting and enjoyable social occasion.

A study group of 11 Friends was formed to explore "Faith and Climate Justice", using the resources provided by BYM, and held six sessions (each based on one of six booklets) in 2024.

Approximately 10 young people regularly attend the Area Meeting Youth Group and some are also involved in Summer School or Senior Conference which enables them to develop links with the wider Quaker Community.

A monthly meeting of the "Preparing for Change in Old Age" group continues and the group has invited external speakers, for example from the local hospice.

LM's have participated in Heritage open days, summer festivals and Christmas festivals. Sometimes opening meeting houses for quiet reflection during these busy times.

Some meetings are small in number and find maintaining the energy of the congregation a struggle, whilst others have increased in number and are benefiting from additional members and attenders joining them. Several Meetings have faced challenges in filling roles with one Meeting mentioning that they place significant responsibility on several key individuals and that most Friends had served more than one triennium in their post. Some meetings have explored ways to reduce the number of formal appointments and reduce the required length of service.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

Community (Cont)

For example, one Local Meeting established a 'Holding Group'. The elders who had agreed to continue after the Covid cohort, finally and for various reasons stepped back. The LM had already noticed that there seemed to be a gap at the heart of the meeting. They had no Elders nominated by the LM and appointed by Area Meeting. They could find no new Friends for Premises Committee. They could not identify a clerk or clerking team. Coordination and cohesion therefore was maintained by a "Holding Group" (HG) of three Friends and one Attender. At its meetings, the HG was joined by a rolling member of the Pastoral Friends' Group, and by the Convener of Children's Committee. They had no nomination's committee other than a process initiated by the HG. The task as they saw it was to simply hold the community and the spiritual life of the meeting as best as they could. Members of the community have said that they did indeed feel held. An enlarged duty eldership also helped to take the pressure off a small number of people.

Ministry has been enhanced in one LM by a box of snippets from Quaker Faith and Practice as Quaker seeds.

On occasions, Friends have met to tend the gardens in our meeting houses which has enhanced the shared fellowship.

We have welcomed Friends from abroad and from other Area Meetings, as well as young people who are studying at nearby universities.

Some pastoral Friends have been challenged but remained faithful to the community needs of the local meetings and to individual needs relating to age, mobility and mental health challenges that individuals have had. We continue to look more closely, through our accessibility audits, at how we might make our study groups and meetings more inclusive.

We are pleased that our buildings are regularly used by members of the local community from a diverse range of backgrounds and organisations. We also use our grounds for community events, outdoor social activities, BBQ's, bonfires, yoga sessions and wildlife group meetings, amongst other things.

Concerns

Workshops and speakers, on issues such as refugees, which led to the creation of 'Quakers Welcome Refugees' posters, have offered opportunities to take forward concerns.

A quiz night and 'Meeting of Sanctuary' collections raised money for, direct support or Quaker-led organisations supporting, asylum seekers.

Food Banks and other charities such as Women with Hope, Hope House, Restore, EcoBirmingham, Women's Cooperative in Seir, Soothern and Craner Education Foundation and Clothing Coventry continue to receive the support of Friends.

An area meeting group: 'Responding to Racism', continues its work with Woodbrooke to explore historical issues and seek ways to consider reparations with one meeting reporting they are 'probably more diverse in relation to Black Brown People of Colour (BBPoC) than at any time in its 98 year history'.

Friends within some Local Meetings have voiced concerns relating to the Testimonies of Peace and Sustainability and have taken this message outward in support of racial justice, the situation in Gaza, climate justice and opposition to the Arms Trade. Some of this action has resulted in arrests and Friends awaiting trial have been supported and held In The Light.

Several Meetings have made improvements to their Meeting Houses to make them more sustainable. Stourbridge Local Meeting gained a silver Eco-church award. Sutton Coldfield Meeting hold a monthly 'Making a Difference' group for small actions on sustainability.

Quaker Christmas Parcels

This annual activity, which has been running for 61 years, took place again on 6th & 7th December 2024 at Selly Oak Meeting House and like last year a little over one thousand food parcels were packed.

Seventy percent of the parcels went via Probation to ex-prisoners or the families of prisoners while the remaining thirty percent were distributed to groups working with refugees and asylum seekers or with the homeless.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

Quaker Christmas Parcels (Cont)

Probation played their part as usual, providing help with the unloading of food deliveries on the Thursday and with collecting parcels on the Saturday. Interestingly, one of the 'unpaid workers' on the Thursday was someone known to Friends who had taken part in a 'Just Stop Oil' protest and was serving part of her sentence helping us with 'Christmas Parcels'.

One of the joys of this annual event is the goodwill which it generates among all those taking part, not only with the packing but with the receiving groups, which then deliver the parcels to their clients and also with the 'unpaid workers'. Feedback from the recipients of the 'parcels' from prisoners or their families and from refugee groups continues to confirm the need for the work and to be heartwarming. A probation officer wrote on behalf of a recipient, "A man has been released from prison today. He has been a rough sleeper for years and is very underweight. Against the odds Probation have found him accommodation this time. It was a great help to give him a bag of food as he is very vulnerable." Another recipient wrote, "It is indescribable how much this food parcel is needed and how grateful and thankful I am to receive this parcel, so thank you." There have also been many letters of thanks from refugee groups and appreciation was warmly expressed by the group, 'Women with Hope' at their Christmas party held at Selly Oak Meeting House.



Over 1000 food parcels were distributed in December 2024.

Peacemakers

In 2024, Peacemakers built awareness of peace education among educators through face-to-face encounters at conferences, social media, newsletters, and Networking. They also produced a new edition of the landmark resource *Learning for Peace*.

626 more young mediators were trained, setting up 22 more Peer Mediation Programmes; and running a Peace Ambassadors Programme in tandem with the Peace Hub, encouraging children in four schools to take action for peace.

260 mediators aged 7-17 who had been in post for 3-6 months were asked some questions about their experience:

98% said they were more confident now in dealing with others' problems.

81% said they were better listeners and were able to be assertive when needed.

66% said they were now more confident in other parts of their lives.

45% said they were more confident dealing with their own problems.

In November a paper was shared with trustees and Area Meeting proposing that Peacemakers might launch themselves as an independent charity, separate to CEQ. This is being considered by Friends and will develop further in 2025.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

Peace Hub

At the Area Meeting in September, the Peace Hub Management Committee set out priorities for the project, following a strategic review. These being:

- Working with & supporting other groups committed to peace & social justice, through outreach, inreach & networking;
- Organising peace events & activities that build on this partnership work;
- Taking people on a journey from passive to active in this peace work.

The committee highlighted the intention to lay down the drop-in model (i.e. close 'the Hub', shop front, to the public) at the end of the year (December 2024). It was felt this would be freeing and increase opportunities to meet people where they are, and allow the coordinator more flexible use of their work time. This will better help achieve the aim of building an inclusive community, active on matters of peace and justice.

The management committee have been reflecting on current partnership working and drawing out threads of connecting with communities, listening to people's concerns and ideas for local action, and helping to connect that with the bigger picture of national and global issues. This will inform the work in the coming years – the coordinator will build on these relationships to begin a new model of working in the community and look for where Peace Hub can offer something constructive.

A focus group will help develop the content for Peace Hub work and provide guidance on issues and groups for Peace Hub to work with.

A celebration to mark 10 years of the Peace Hub and the start of the next chapter will be held in early 2025.

Other work which contributes to our objectives

As well as involvement in Central England Area Meeting, some Friends are involved with Yearly Meeting and Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations as well as ecumenical work such as Churches Together and the Chapel of Unity.

Many local meetings have good links with other religious groups and this year the Warwick Meeting House was a stop on the Warwick Faith Trail, when Friends had the opportunity to share how Quakers worship and an introduce Quaker testimonies.

9 members of a LM visited Oakwood prison in October to take part in their Meeting for Worship, in celebration of World Quaker Day

Friends played a prominent part in the annual Hiroshima Day ceremony in Coventry Cathedral as well as providing representatives on a local initiative called Sacred Spaces and on the multifaith forum.

One LM has provided administrative support for Lynn and Dave Morris who have, as *Journeyman Theatre*, written and performed powerful and thought-provoking productions on themes reflecting Quaker concerns and testimonies. After over a decade, Lynn and Dave decided to lay the project down in 2023, and they have been working on a "legacy project" to enable their work to be documented for posterity, and to make the material accessible to other performers. Their legacy book was launched in June 2024. The cost of the project was supported by contributions from both Area Meeting (specifically the "Black Country Fund") and Stourbridge Meeting.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024 (continued)

Friends and activities from across the Central England Area Quaker Meeting



Food and fellowship at an AM tea



Friends from Central England joined Friends from Staffordshire Area Meeting, in Lichfield, for a George Fox street performance.



CEQ marked 400 years since the birth of George Fox with several commemorative events.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Friends and activities from across the Central England Area Quaker Meeting (Cont)



CEQ marked 400 years since the birth of George Fox with several commemorative events.



Children made birthday cards for George Fox



Quaker Faith and Play: the story of Margaret Fell, at all age worship

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Friends and activities from across the Central England Area Quaker Meeting (Cont)



Area Meeting Friends produced posters to be used across our Meeting Houses promoting a welcoming space for refugees.



The creativity continued with Quaker banners.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Friends and activities from across the Central England Area Quaker Meeting (Cont)



Youth Group created some amazing t-shirts during a session about the environment.



Bonfire night fun at Selly Oak



Peaceful protests at Telford Arms Fair

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Friends and activities from across the Central England Area Quaker Meeting (Cont)



Children's meeting built their own bus and 'drove' themselves to Meeting for Worship

Servicing

The trustees are responsible for the charity's governance and compliance as set out in the governing document. It requires trustees to use the property and income to further the area meeting's objects through for example: strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings; maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places for public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world; and administering and maintaining the organisation of Central England Area Quaker Meeting.

The Governing Document sets out the responsibilities delegated to trustees and defines their role and that of the Area and Local Meetings. One of the trustees responsibilities is to report annually to Area Meeting in session so that Friends can question and be reassured that property, finance, employment, and records are all being well managed and that risks are identified and reviewed regularly.

Trustees are aided in this work by the Service committees for finance, property, employment, and records advisory, each comprising members of Area Meeting and at least one or two trustees. The work and discernment done by these Service Committees brings greater depth and accountability to the eventual decisions made by trustees.

During the year the service committees each met quarterly, and their minutes were received at each trustees meeting. Matters for discernment were brought to trustees' quarterly meetings and, when necessary, these decisions were taken to Area Meeting in session for further discernment or for information. Such matters are forwarded by minute or are agreed as agenda items with Area Meeting clerks.

The Local Meetings and Branches (working on Quaker concerns) are all part of the Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charity and have a significant degree of autonomy. One of the challenges for trustees is to ensure compliance with the governing document of the charity. This is done informally by the 'link trustees' and formally by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is completed by the separate bodies that make up the charity. The MoU is revisited bi-annually. It was last completed in 2023 and it will be reviewed again in 2025.

D Performance and monitoring

As described above, trustees manage the performance of the charity through service committees which oversee finance, property, employment, safeguarding and records management. Liaison with and support for the LMs and Branches is provided by a 'Link Trustee' who reports on key issues via a report to the trustees meeting.

A Scheme of Delegation is in place to help clarify roles and responsibilities between the trustees and Principal Officer. The PO role supports the work of the trustees and their committees and seeks to undertake some of the practical work previously carried out by volunteers, releasing those members to focus on the spiritual elements of the charity or to remain involved in charity work but with less onerous responsibilities. The PO also provides a report or collates relevant papers for each of the service committees' and trustees' meetings, highlighting key activities, risks and decisions which need to be considered.

The Risk Register was updated regularly during the year and is a standing agenda item at trustee meetings.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Safeguarding

The Area Meeting safeguarding team comprises 1 trustee, 1 experienced Area Meeting member (who also serves as a prison Chaplain) and the Principal Officer. The AM team works with the LM Safeguarding Lead's, providing support and guidance as required.

During 2024 there was one formal safeguarding referral from CEQ made to adult social care. This was an incident that was not directly related to the charity but became known to members, who took appropriate steps to safeguard an adult at risk.

There were also a number of events or incidents where Friends sought support from the Safeguarding Team and one particular case which led to significant liaison with agencies such as the police and probation.

No issues were escalated to the Charity Commission. The full procedure and toolkit was reviewed and updated in 2024 and approved by Trustees at their August meeting. These are available via the CEQ website.

E Financial Review

Grants Policy

The Area Meeting is not a grant-making charity and the items referred to as 'grants' mostly consist of the gifts (from central funds and Local Meetings) to the charity's parent body, Britain Yearly Meeting, contributions to other Quaker work, donations to non-Quaker charities (mainly by Local Meetings acting under concern) and subscriptions to ecumenical bodies of which CEQ is a member. In 2024 the following donations were made from charitable funds to external beneficiaries (£): -

<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>£</u>	
Overseas beneficiaries	0	
Non-CEQ Quaker charities	2,840	*
Britain Yearly Meeting	25,750	
Non-Quaker charities	19,825	**
Non-charities	1,000	
TOTAL	49,415	

* includes a £2,500 donation to Woodbrooke

** includes a £15,000 donation to ecobirmingham (formerly a CEQ Branch but from July 2018 an independent CIO).

The funds used for these purposes derive from members' donations and investment income and not from the general public. All of the donations (as listed above) were approved at a formal business meeting, and recorded by Minute.

Reserves policy and performance

The reserves policy for the Area Meeting's central funds was first approved by trustees in April 2009. It is regularly reviewed and was further revised in 2022. It will be revised again in 2025. A copy can be found on the CEQ website.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- to ensure that the charity has adequate funds to undertake its charitable activities and protect itself from fluctuations in income or expenditure and
- to reassure CEQ members and the public that it is using its income for charitable work, and not accumulating excessive reserves.

Most LMs and Branches also carry some reserves to cover their day to day needs and guidance has been issued by the finance committee with regards to this.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

Investment Properties

In addition to the Meeting Houses which are used by LMs the charity also has a number of other properties and land which are used for regular lettings or leased on a longer term basis to bring in additional revenue to support the charity's objectives. These are managed centrally by the trustees and Principal Officer.

Priory Rooms Ltd (trading subsidiary)

Priory Rooms had a positive year in 2024, despite the challenges of increasing costs and were able to make a very welcome gift of £70,000 to the charity, for which trustees were very grateful.

The Service Agreement between the Charity and Priory Rooms, previously started in 2020, continued in 2024 and included the provision of services to support 4 centrally managed Meeting Houses.

Overall financial results for the year

2024 has been a good year for Central England Quakers with the majority of our Meetings enjoying regular worship and witness activities, as described elsewhere in this report. We are pleased that we have increased our expenditure on Quaker activities. Our income and expenditure has remained broadly consistent with previous years though we report a deficit for 2024 of £57,593 before gains on investments. We continue to try to simplify our financial and property arrangements and work towards modernizing and future proofing our systems but there are costs involved as we manage these developments.

Our investment properties were valued in the summer of 2025 and the new values have been reflected in the 2024 accounts giving unrealized gains. The sale of three properties before the year end gave us £204,319 of realised gains.

The year end valuation of our financial investments was lower than hoped following a year of turbulent global and political events but our balance sheet remains strong and the overall financial picture is positive, and, given the support of our members and our inherited portfolio, we feel able to cope with the ongoing challenges of increasing labour costs, higher utility charges and expenditure on building repairs and improvements to our governance. Overall, the charity is in a sound position as we go into 2025.

F Going Concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern, the evidence for which is as follows:

The key funds held by the charity are overall above target levels, as defined in the Reserves Policy. Principal sources of income are the rents from investment properties, donations from members and the hire of rooms. The rent income is underpinned by the length and stability of the leases, with no known risk of any significant reduction.

The risks faced by the charity are well understood, with extensive mitigation measures in place. Specific financial risks are incorporated in the reserves policy. With the exception of one of its Branches, the charity is not dependent on external funding or fundraising for its income, and the relatively small scale of the activities limits the risks associated with this Branch. Property (repair and maintenance) risks are mitigated by the regular (quinquennial) building surveys undertaken, and by the comprehensive insurance cover that is in place. Major unforeseen expenditure on property is protected by the (c. £500,000) central Building Fund held in reserve.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2024 (continued)

G Public Benefit Statement

The trustees consider they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The charity makes available and provides the following to further its purposes for the public benefit:

- ✓ Regular holding of public Meetings for Worship.
- ✓ Provision of information about the Quaker way to “seekers”, through courses, discussion, study groups and literature.
- ✓ Meeting Houses which are used by many different groups and are of value to the local community.
- ✓ Support for ecobirmingham, an environmental charity based in the midlands.
- ✓ Information on energy-saving and lifestyle improvements through CEQ Climate Emergency Action Group.
- ✓ Training and resources in mediation skills in schools and anti-bullying strategies, provided by the West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers).
- ✓ Gifts of food for families in need, through the Quaker Christmas Parcels project and involvement with foodbanks in local areas.
- ✓ Housing and care for elderly people, in partnership with other Quaker charities.
- ✓ Funding for overseas work and for witness in UK.

Trustees consider that the following in particular benefit from the charity's activities:

- ✓ Members of the public
- ✓ All who are interested in the Religious Society of Friends, its worship, values, testimonies, business methods, projects and concerns.
- ✓ Members of CEQ, who are encouraged to participate actively in the work of the charity and its decision making. Quakers have no paid clergy, and volunteers who are given training as required, and acquire knowledge and skills, carry out much of the work.
- ✓ “Attenders” at Meetings for Worship, who are permitted to take an active part in many Quaker roles, and who may benefit as above.
- ✓ Local communities, which benefit from the use of Quaker Meeting Houses.
- ✓ Local councils, which may benefit from the use of Meeting Houses as polling stations and councillors' surgeries.
- ✓ Prisoners supported by Quaker prison chaplains, and Quakers involved in the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Asylum seekers, who are supported by various projects and through the work done on their behalf.
- ✓ Mental health patients and students in the Birmingham area, who benefit from the work of Quaker chaplains.
- ✓ Older people, through the provision of residential care.
- ✓ People interested in developing a more sustainable, low carbon lifestyle, through the Eco Church scheme and the services of ecobirmingham.

H Future Plans

- Continue to explore ways of supporting our Local Meeting and branches to enable them to continue, whilst releasing volunteers of some of the more burdensome roles.
- Facilitate opportunities for all age worship and social events across the AM.
- Continue to review our property portfolio and ensure we are utilizing our resources efficiently and effectively.
- Explore ways to continue to grow the membership of the society and witness in our communities.
- Review our new model for delivering our Peace Hub project.
- Continue to promote and increase the uptake of peace education in the UK for 7-11 year olds and consider whether there are opportunities to take this project further.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Governing Document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of information to the auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow trustees and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report was approved on **12th August 2025** and signed on behalf of the trustees by;



.....
Sandra Berry (Trustee)



.....
Anne Ullathorne (Trustee)

The financial statements were submitted to the Charity Commission on **8th September 2025** and to the BYM Recording Clerk's Office on **8th September 2025**

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities and group for the year ended 31 December 2024 which comprise of the charity and group statement of financial activities, the charity and group statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charity's affairs as at 31 December 2024 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's or the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- sufficient accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. We have audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business. We have also made enquiries of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

P Miller - Hawkes

Philippa Miller-Hawkes BA CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
BSN Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2JG

12th August 2025

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	85,063	210,746	295,809	297,214
Charitable activities	222,413	48,395	270,808	261,852
Investment Income	288,213	24,158	312,371	307,192
Gift from Priory Rooms	70,000	-	70,000	60,000
Other Income	48,148	2,011	50,159	49,394
Total income	713,837	285,310	999,147	975,652
Expenditure				
Cost of raising funds	(9,844)	(7,587)	(17,431)	(24,425)
Charitable activities	(733,604)	(305,705)	(1,039,309)	(967,709)
Total expenditure	(743,448)	(313,292)	(1,056,740)	(992,134)
Net income / (expenditure) before gains on investments	(29,611)	(27,982)	(57,593)	(16,482)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	591,875	2,385	594,260	385,829
Net income / (expenditure) before transfers	562,264	(25,597)	536,667	369,347
Transfers between funds	(3,623)	3,623	-	-
Net movement in funds	558,641	(21,974)	536,667	369,347
Total funds brought forward	7,956,400	1,019,684	8,976,084	8,606,737
Total funds carried forward	8,515,041	997,710	9,512,751	8,976,084

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2024	Total 2023
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		85,063	210,746	295,809	297,214
Charitable activities		216,413	48,395	264,808	261,852
Other trading activities		700,186	-	700,186	686,710
Investment Income		289,643	24,158	313,801	307,192
Other Income		48,148	2,011	50,159	46,394
Total income	4	1,339,453	285,310	1,624,763	1,599,362
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(629,567)	(7,587)	(637,154)	(610,515)
Charitable activities	6	(710,376)	(305,705)	(1,016,081)	(934,695)
Total expenditure		(1,339,943)	(313,292)	(1,653,325)	(1,545,210)
Net income / (expenditure) before gains on investments		(490)	(27,982)	(28,472)	54,152
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	591,875	2,385	594,260	385,829
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		591,385	(25,597)	565,788	439,981
Transfers between funds	7	(3,623)	3,623	-	-
Net movement in funds		587,762	(21,974)	565,788	439,981
Total funds brought forward		8,232,309	1,019,684	9,251,993	8,812,012
Total funds carried forward		8,820,071	997,710	9,817,781	9,251,993

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY AND CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2024

	Note	Charity 2024	Charity 2023	Group 2024	Group 2023
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	1,254,183	1,314,314	1,276,084	1,328,800
Investments	12	6,918,071	6,770,652	6,918,071	6,770,652
Total fixed assets		8,172,254	8,084,966	8,194,155	8,099,453
Current assets					
Debtors	13	101,764	80,003	144,850	103,953
Cash at bank and in hand		1,303,435	908,038	1,621,963	1,209,838
Total current assets		1,405,199	988,041	1,766,813	1,313,791
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within 1 year	14	(64,702)	(96,923)	(139,556)	(159,071)
Net current assets		1,340,497	891,118	1,627,257	1,154,720
Total assets less current liabilities		9,512,751	8,976,084	9,821,412	9,254,172
Creditors falling due after 1 year	14	-	-	-	-
Provisions	16	-	-	(3,631)	(2,179)
Net assets		9,512,751	8,976,084	9,767,781	9,251,993
Unrestricted		6,858,753	6,376,062	7,163,783	6,651,971
Designated	17	1,656,288	1,580,338	1,656,288	1,580,338
Restricted	18	997,710	1,019,684	997,710	1,019,684
Total funds		9,462,751	8,976,084	9,817,781	9,251,993

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 12th August 2025 and signed on their behalf by:



.....
Sandra Berry (Trustee)



.....
Anne Ullathorne (Trustee)

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

	2024	2023
	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Net movement in funds	565,788	439,981
Depreciation Charge	81,533	96,529
Dividends and interest	(313,801)	(307,192)
Losses/(gains) on investments	(594,260)	(385,829)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(40,897)	39,597
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and provisions	(18,063)	62,346
Net cash used in operating activities	(319,700)	(54,568)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends, interest & rents from investments	313,801	307,192
Purchase of fixed assets	(28,817)	(10,528)
Net sale/(purchase) of investments	446,841	83,386
Net cash provided by investing activities	731,825	380,050
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of borrowing	-	-
Net cash provided by financing activities	-	-
Change in cash and cash equivalents in the reporting period	<u>412,125</u>	<u>325,482</u>
Cash and cash equivalents brought forward	1,209,838	884,35
Cash and cash equivalents carried forward	<u>1,621,963</u>	<u>1,209,838</u>

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

1. General information

The charity is a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the area meeting office is: 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements incorporate the affairs of Central England Area Quaker Meeting and the Local Meetings and other Branches set out in note 20 to the financial statements. Transfers between the Local Meetings, the Branches and the Area Meeting are eliminated from income and expenditure. The financial statements also exclude those donations received by the Area Meeting and Local Meetings, which are paid over to various charities at the donors' requests.

The financial statements also incorporate, where applicable and where amounts are described as 'group', the affairs of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary.

The subsidiary, which is a limited company and not a charity has been consolidated on a line by line basis. Inter group balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Central England Quakers (CEQ) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The Trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, as set out in their report.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate the availability of funds they are categorised according to the following definitions:

- Unrestricted general funds are available for any purpose of the Charity.
- Designated funds represent amounts set aside for specific purposes but which remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting; and
- Restricted funds represent contributions, legacies and donations received earmarked by the testator or donor for specific purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised as above except where the income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, when the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the charity has been notified of the amount and settlement date.

Investment income is recognised when receivable and is shown gross to include income tax recovered and recoverable. Other income is accounted for on the basis of amounts receivable for the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many members, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of members is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services or facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on using the accruals basis, inclusive of any value added tax that cannot be recovered.

Taxation

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is chargeable to corporation tax on its income and capital gains. Otherwise Central England Area Quaker Meeting is a charity and is exempt from taxation on income derived from its charitable activities. Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited provides for taxation deferred as a result of timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Tangible fixed assets

The charity owns a number of functional properties comprising Meeting Houses and their contents, and other buildings used by CEQ Branches. These buildings are held in perpetuity for Meetings for Worship or other charitable activities, and contribute to the furtherance of the Central England Quaker's charitable objectives and are considered to be heritage assets under FRS 102. The heritage assets have been grouped together in the following categories:

Meeting Houses, Wardens' Accommodation and other buildings

There is no cost or accumulated depreciation recognised for these heritage assets, as allowable under Section 18 of FRS 102. Whilst it is believed that the market value, both at the time of acquisition and at the balance sheet date, was significantly in excess of £nil deemed cost and net book value, it is not possible to obtain a reliable estimate of the market value at either date. Conventional valuation techniques are not appropriate for the unique and historical nature of the assets. In addition, the Trustees consider it an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain valuations for all of these properties and not befitting of the objectives of the charity.

Major expenditure on improvements to property at 40 Bull Street incurred during 1999 were capitalised and are being depreciated at 5% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. Expenditure on the conference centre in Bull Street is being depreciated at 2% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. A replacement heating system for 40 Bull Street was installed during 2020 and is being depreciated at 10% per annum on cost from 1 November 2020. This has been included within the Refurbishment of Meeting House asset category in note 11.

Any developments or improvements to the building greater than £10,000 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over the improvement's useful economic life. Maintenance costs are charged to the SOFA in the period they are incurred.

Contents of Meeting Houses

A number of the Meeting Houses contents have also been recognised at £nil cost and £nil accumulated depreciation as it is impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's resources to value the specific items in the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

3. Accounting policies (continued)

The Trustees capitalise individual items of equipment costing £10,000 or more where there is a continuing economic value and a reliable measurement of cost or fair value is available. These assets are depreciated annually so as to write off the cost over their economic useful lives. In the subsidiary company equipment is capitalised where the asset has a continuing economic value.

Other fixed assets, which have been capitalised, are being depreciated at the following annual rates on cost:

Furniture and fittings	-	at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	-	25% on cost
Heating and hot water system	-	10 years
Refurbishment of Meeting house	-	20 years
Conference Centre etc.	-	50 years

Investments

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange and fair value is equivalent to the market value. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at bid price. The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial interests.

Investment properties are re-valued periodically or when changes in rental income necessitate revaluation. Fair value is generally open market value.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Short term deposits comprise funds held in savings or deposit (rather than current) accounts which are surplus to immediate cash flow requirements and are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Pension costs

The charity and its subsidiary contribute to defined contribution schemes for some of their employees. The pension cost represents the total amount payable to the schemes in the year. The pension cost is directly charged to funds with contributory employees.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

4. Income

The comparative amounts for 2023 between consolidated funds are:

Note	Unrestricted Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total 2023 £
Donations and legacies	122,875	174,339	297,214
Charitable activities	218,705	43,147	261,852
Other trading activities	686,710	-	686,710
Investment Income	292,859	14,333	307,192
Other Income	42,099	4,295	46,394
Total income	1,363,248	236,114	1,599,362

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

5. Costs of raising funds (Group)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Priory Rooms (Bull St) Limited:				
Meeting & conference facilities	612,861	-	612,861	569,714
Taxation	6,862	-	6,862	16,376
Commercial lettings:				
Letting fees	2,095	-	2,095	2,714
Other	7,749	7,587	15,336	21,711
	629,567	7,587	637,154	610,515
2023	595,091	15,424	610,515	

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (Group)

Support, governance and other costs are directly incurred by the various funds, there is no apportionment required centrally and there are no central function costs.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2024 Total	2023 Total
	£	£	£	£
Payroll costs	111,216	146,942	258,158	238,981
Repairs and maintenance	174,837	14,065	188,902	171,432
Costs of Quaker activities	108,325	71,110	179,435	153,174
Depreciation	81,533	-	81,533	96,529
Other employee costs	73,378	54,981	128,359	110,167
Utilities	60,465	9,557	70,022	88,556
Insurance	27,151	2,005	29,156	32,668
Costs of governance	66,416	-	66,416	25,074
Other costs	7,055	7,045	14,100	18,114
	710,376	305,705	1,016,081	934,695
2023	667,012	267,683	934,695	

Included within the expenditure on activities are amounts paid to defined contribution pension plans for employees of £14,153 (2023: £12,439).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (*continued*)

Costs of governance includes the auditors' remuneration of £12,719 (2023: £10,362) for auditing and accounting fees which is incurred by the central funds and is not apportioned to individual Branches. The amount also includes irrecoverable value added tax.

7. Restricted Transfers

The transfers into the restricted fund were grants from the Trustees General fund into the Peacemakers for £30,000 and the Peace Hub £5,000 as well as donations raised from local meetings to support the ongoing work of these branches.

8. Staff details and analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

The Trustees consider the Principal Officer to be key management who undertakes much of the day to day management on their behalf.

The Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year (2023: £Nil). No Trustees received reimbursement of travelling expenses in 2024 (2023: £Nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2023: £Nil).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2023: £Nil). Pension costs are incurred directly by the cost centre where staff are employed and allocated to the various funds accordingly.

There are 8 statutory directors of the subsidiary (2023: 7) who receive no remuneration or benefits.

The average number of employees during the year analysed by function was:

	2024	2023
Conference facilities	13	13
Other Branches and projects	5	5
Wardens, caretakers and gardeners	4	4
Administration	2	2
	<u>24</u>	<u>24</u>

The total staff costs for the year were:

	2024 £	2023 £
Wages and salaries – conference facilities	283,199	260,680
Wages and salaries – other	229,010	214,512
National insurance	32,384	28,936
Pension costs	26,892	24,817
	<u>571,485</u>	<u>528,945</u>

All conference facilities staff are employed by the subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. These costs are included in costs of raising funds.

9. Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2024 £	2023 £
Unrestricted	556,234	237,286
Designated	35,641	97,285
Restricted	2,385	51,258
Total net gains / (losses)	<u>594,260</u>	<u>385,829</u>

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

10. Related party transactions

Included within donations to the charity is an aggregate amount of £7,552 (2023: £7,445) received from the Trustees.

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2024	854,667	2,015,647	260,902	38,923	3,170,139
Additions	-	-	26,323	2,494	28,817
Disposals	-	-	(115,190)	(14,665)	(129,855)
At 31 December 2023	854,667	2,015,647	172,035	26,752	3,069,101
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2024	755,906	800,094	249,912	35,427	1,841,339
Charge for year	34,532	40,313	4,976	1,712	81,533
Disposals	-	-	(115,190)	(14,665)	(129,855)
At 31 December 2024	790,438	840,407	139,698	22,474	1,793,017
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2024	64,229	1,175,240	32,337	4,278	1,276,084
At 31 December 2023	98,761	1,215,553	10,990	3,496	1,328,800
Charity					
	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2024	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Additions	-	-	14,714	-	14,714
At 31 December 2024	854,667	2,015,647	24,976	-	2,895,290
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2024	755,906	800,094	10,262	-	1,566,262
Charge for year	34,532	40,313	-	-	74,845
At 31 December 2024	790,438	840,407	10,262	-	1,641,107
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2024	64,229	1,175,240	14,714	-	1,254,183
At 31 December 2023	98,761	1,215,553	-	-	1,314,314

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

11. **Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

All Group tangible assets are classified as unrestricted funds as they are held as part of the Trustees Fund where all assets are used for whatever is deemed appropriate to further the charity's objectives.

Conference Centre

The centre consists of a conference suite and ground level refreshment area for the use of the charity and other Quaker and charitable bodies together with significant commercial use. The operation of the centre is managed by the charity's subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. The conference centre is being depreciated at 2% per annum from 1 January 2004.

Heritage assets

As described in the accounting policies note, there is a cost and accumulated depreciation of £nil for the Meeting Houses owned and used by the charity and group for Worship and charity activities. The buildings are maintained by the charity for their contribution to knowledge and culture of the Quaker faith. It would be impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain market valuations for such unique assets and their contents. A description is given of each of the assets below and the year in which the Meeting Houses were constructed. On the basis of the age of the properties, had the original cost been capitalised, the Trustees are of the view that the assets would be fully depreciated at the balance sheet date. No reliable information exists to include original cost and accumulated depreciation amounts. Wardens accommodation was previously included within the heritage assets but as of late 2024 there were no wardens working for CEQ and all previous bungalows and flats became investment properties.

The charity is the beneficial owner of the following heritage asset properties:

Type of property	Year	Address
Freehold		
Meeting House	1969	6 Sandhills Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NR
Meeting House	1964	23 Watford Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1JB
Meeting House	1930	Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB
Meeting House and Conference Centre	1931	40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF
CEQ Peace Hub	1931	41 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
Meeting House	1953	Hill Street, Coventry, CV1 4AN
Meeting House	1892	George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1JP
Meeting House	1927	Hamlet Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9BG
Meeting House	1972	112 Castle Road, Hartshill, CV10 0SG
Meeting House	1983	17 Colmore Row, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7PE
Meeting House	1695	39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
Meeting House	1939	Kenelm Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6HD
Woodlands Quaker Home	1945	434 Penn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4DH
Long leasehold		
Meeting House	1689	Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR
Meeting House	1905	65 Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT
Short leasehold		
Meeting House	1926	930 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NP

The heritage asset contents of the above properties for which there is no recorded cost are classified into the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents. The Trustees preserve these assets by keeping a register of assets held at each Branch and insuring the assets appropriately to protect them from damage or loss.

The titles to all of the properties owned by the charity and group are held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee with strict restrictions on disposition of the freehold which requires authorisation by an order of the court.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

12. Fixed asset investments

Group investments:

	2024		2023	
	Freehold properties	Listed securities	Freehold properties	Listed securities
	£	£	£	£
Market value brought forward	4,682,150	2,088,502	4,465,650	2,002,559
Net additions/(sales)	(480,000)	33,159	-	(83,386)
Revaluation	537,850	56,410	216,500	169,329
Total Group investments	4,740,000	2,178,071	4,682,150	2,088,502

Group fixed asset investments are held between funds as follows:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Unrestricted	4,986,202	4,919,968
Designated	1,122,594	1,050,198
Restricted	809,275	800,486
Total Group investments	6,918,071	6,770,652

Charity investments:

	2024	2023
	£	£
Market value		
Freehold properties	4,740,000	4,682,150
Listed securities	2,178,071	2,088,502
Total Charity investments	6,918,071	6,770,652

Freehold Properties

The charity and group own the following freehold investment properties held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee:

Two bungalows adjacent to Barnt Green Meeting House at 6a & 6b Sandhills Road, Barnt Green. The 6a property was valued on an open market basis at £230,000 by KBW, Chartered Surveyors In June 2025. This is an increase from 2020 when it was valued at £180,000. The 6b property, formerly a warden's bungalow, was converted to private rented accommodation and reclassified as an investment property in May 2021, and both properties are subject to shorthold tenancies. The 6b property was valued on an open market basis at £220,000 by KWB in June 2025. This is an increase from 2022 when it was valued at £195,000

The property known as Redditch Meeting House, Matchborough, Redditch, B98 0ER was sold in December 2024 for £190,000 Office accommodation at 51 and 53 Church Road was also sold in the autumn for £300,000. The following table shows the net proceeds to the charity of these sales.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

	Church Road £	Redditch £	Total £
Sale proceeds	300,000	190,000	490,000
Less cost of sale	(11,366)	(10,815)	(22,181)
Net proceeds	288,634	179,185	467,819
Less book cost (22 valuation)	(196,500)	(67,000)	(263,500)
Profit on sale *	92,134	112,185	204,319

*Note that unrealised gains were recognised in the 2023 audited accounts.

Private flats at 39A and 39B High Street Warwick CV34 4AX. The properties were valued on an open market basis at £150,000 and £155,000 respectively by KWB, Chartered Surveyors in July 2025.

A bungalow adjacent to the Meeting House in Selly Oak was reclassified as an investment property in 2014. The property was valued on an open market basis at £125,000 by KWB, Chartered Surveyors in July 2025. This is an increase following a previous valuation of £27,150 in 2020.

A flat within the Hartshill Meeting House has been converted into private rented accommodation and was reclassified as an investment property for 2019. The flat was valued at £85,000 on an open market basis by KWB in July 2025. This is an increase from the previous valuation of £65,000 in 2020.

An office development on land owned by the Area Meeting at 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham. The land is let on a 250 years lease from 29 September 1999 and was valued on an open market basis at £3,615,000 by KWB, Chartered Surveyors on in July 2025. This is unchanged from the previous valuation.

The types of investment held at 31 December 2024 and their market values were:

	2024 £	2023 £
Listed investments (incl. loan stocks)	240,793	232,409
Investment properties	4,740,000	4,682,150
Social investments	5,409	5,409
Other investments (Unit Trusts, Branch & Trustee Reserves)	1,931,869	1,850,684
Total Group investments	6,918,071	6,770,652

Unlisted investments

The charity owns 100% of the Ordinary share capital of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited (company number: 05129631). There is no investment cost included for the subsidiary in the charity's balance sheet, with all profit is donated back to the parent entity to support with the charitable objectives of Central England Quakers.

	2024 £	2023 £
Aggregate capital and reserves	305,031	275,910
Profit for the year after taxation	99,121	130,634

At the year end, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited made a pledge to £70,000 (2023: £60,000) to the parent charity.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

The following is a summary of the profit for the year after taxation in Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited.

	2024	2023
	£	£
Sales of conference facilities	733,084	727,702
Cost of sales	(123,579)	(127,077)
Administrative expenses	(498,952)	(450,615)
Other operating income	-	-
Management charge to parent charity	(6,000)	(3,000)
Operating profit/(loss)	104,553	147,010
Other interest receivable	1,430	-
Gain on financial assets at fair value	-	-
Profit before taxation	105,983	147,010
Taxation (note 16)	(6,862)	(16,376)
Profit after taxation	99,121	130,634

The company declared a dividend of £70,000 to the parent charity during the year (2023: £60,000).

13. Debtors

	2024	2023
	£	£
Group		
Trade debtors	93,164	56,917
Other debtors	51,686	47,036
	144,850	103,953
	2024	2023
	£	£
Charity		
Trade Debtors	-	-
Other debtors	31,764	20,003
Amounts owed by trading subsidiary	70,000	60,000
	101,764	80,003

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Group		
Trade creditors	8,366	4,242
Social security and other taxes	43,981	41,207
Corporation tax	5,410	7,404
Accruals	67,792	91,333
Other creditors	14,007	14,885
	139,556	159,071
	2024	2023
	£	£
Charity		
Social security and other taxes	12,181	13,057
Accruals and deferred income	52,521	83,866
	64,702	96,923

Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2024	2023
	£	£
Group	-	-
	-	-

15. Secured assets

Freehold land and buildings at Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4DH, have been given as security for loan finance x 2 obtained in the Charity's name from, Quaker Housing Trust and Orchard Brook Ltd and in turn made available to Woodlands Quaker Home in respect of expenditure on new buildings. The loan's are not included in these financial statements as the charity does not expect to have to meet any part of the debt. The loans will be repaid in 2025. The last relevant market valuation for the secured property was £1,450,000 in May 2019 (inc. the business).

Friends Trusts Ltd, as nominee for land, is a party to the leases (excluding tenancy agreements) pertaining to CEQ investment properties, which are 1 Colmore Square, and the Woodlands.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

16. Provision for liabilities

	2024 £	2023 £
Deferred tax		
Accelerated capital allowances	3,857	2,381
Unpaid remuneration	(226)	(202)
	3,631	2,179
		Deferred tax £
Balance at 1 January 2024		2,179
Provided during year		1,452
At 31 December 2024		3,631

The provision for deferred taxation arises in the charity's subsidiary company. The provision relates to unrestricted funds in 2024 and 2023.

17. Designated funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	1,057,839	414,519	(357,204)	23,561	(10,861)	1,127,854
Building Fund	67,355	112	(74)	-	8,838	76,231
Black Country	15,021	-	-	-	(15,021)	-
Trustees Reserves	440,123	3,997	-	12,080	(3,997)	452,203
Designated funds	1,580,338	418,628	(357,278)	35,641	(21,041)	1,656,288

Local Meetings funds

Local meeting funds are for the purpose of the respective meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are used for Quaker activities, repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support Quaker work.

The Building Fund

The building fund receives income from Building Fund Investments (see Restricted Funds) and provides loans or grants to assist Local Meetings to maintain their properties if a major repair is beyond their means and to carry out agreed improvements to premises.

The Black Country Fund

The Black Country Fund was established in 2015 to support the development of Quakerism in the Black Country but has now been fully utilized.

Trustee Reserves

Trustee reserves have been designated by trustees following various historic events several decades ago – Trustees plan to review the appropriate allocation to these designated funds as a larger amount of inherited assets might properly be defined as programme-related funds. Central England Quakers use income from these assets to support their organization and their ongoing Quaker work.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

18. Restricted funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	168,117	64,563	(69,439)	2,447	(28,549)	137,139
Other Branches	157,363	211,516	(237,456)	873	41,010	173,306
CJG	3,302	531	(2,305)	-	-	1,528
Building Fund	452,688	8,700	(4,092)	(7,471)	(8,838)	440,987
Trustees Reserves	238,214	-	-	6,536	-	244,750
Restricted funds	1,019,684	285,310	(313,292)	2,385	3,623	997,710

Local Meetings funds

Seven local meetings hold restricted funds for specific projects such as building work, peace work or work with children.

Other Branches

Other branches of the charity include Christmas Parcels, Peacemakers and Peace Hub and all funds raised for these projects are restricted for the purposes for which they were raised.

CJG (Community Justice Group)

Community Justice Group was a branch with its own bank account until the end of 2023, when it closed its account and transferred the balance to the General Fund, but the funds donated by Friends are given specifically for CJG activity and are therefore restricted and reported separately.

Building Fund Investments

The Area Meeting's Building Fund is restricted for the support (including maintenance, repair and improvement) of the charity's Quaker Meeting Houses. Loans and grants are provided to assist Local Meetings to maintain and improve their properties.

Trustees' Reserve Funds

Trustees also hold two restricted funds which are the proceeds of the sale of Atherstone Meeting House, with the income applied to Hartshill Local Meeting, and the proceeds of Cotteridge Land Sale with income applied to Cotteridge Local Meeting.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

19. Analysis of Group assets between funds

	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2024
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	6,262,286	1,122,594	809,275	8,194,155
Current assets	1,032,604	542,057	192,152	1,766,813
Creditors < 1 year	(127,476)	(8,363)	(3,717)	(139,556)
Provisions for liabilities	(3,631)	-	-	(3,631)
	7,163,783	1,656,288	997,710	9,817,781
	General	Designated	Restricted	Total 2023
	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets	6,248,768	1,050,198	800,486	8,099,452
Current assets	494,015	546,515	273,261	1,313,79
Creditors < 1 year	(88,633)	(16,375)	(54,063)	(159,071)
Provisions for liabilities	(2,179)	-	-	(2,179)
	6,651,971	1,580,338	1,019,684	9,251,993

20. Capital commitments

There was no future capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements at 31 December 2024.

21. Events after the reporting period

The trustees commissioned a revaluation of their investment properties in 2025. This reflects a number of changes from previous functional properties e.g. wardens accommodation and the addition of a new flat at Warwick Meeting House. The updated values are included in the 2024 accounts.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2024

22. Consolidated (Group) Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		122,875	174,339	297,214	240,565
Charitable activities		218,705	43,147	261,852	224,784
Other trading activities		686,710	-	686,710	515,915
Investment Income		292,859	14,333	307,192	291,806
Other Income		42,099	4,295	46,394	13,406
Total income		1,363,248	236,114	1,599,362	1,286,476
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds		(595,091)	(15,424)	(610,515)	(497,046)
Charitable activities		(667,012)	(267,683)	(934,695)	(931,155)
Total expenditure		(1,262,103)	(283,107)	(1,545,210)	(1,428,201)
Net income / (expenditure) before gains on investments		101,145	(46,993)	54,152	(141,725)
Net gains/(losses) on investments		334,571	51,258	385,829	(310,197)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		435,716	4,265	439,981	(451,922)
Transfers between funds		(43,350)	43,350	-	-
Net movement in funds		392,366	47,615	439,981	(451,922)
Total funds brought forward		7,839,943	972,069	8,812,012	9,263,934
Total funds carried forward		8,232,309	1,019,684	9,251,993	8,812,012

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 224571

Accounts

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

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THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities

Working charity name Central England Quakers (CEQ)

Charity registration number 224571

Area meeting office 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

The Trustees
Christine Bagnall
Sandra Berry (from March 2024)
Patricia Bradbury (until December 2023)
Huw Davies (from January 2024)
James Green
John Kimberley (until May 2024)
Robert Morris
Carole Pannell
Steven Pullan
Gillian Smith (Clerk)
Lyndon Thomas (from January 2024)
Anne Ullathorne (from June 2023)
Peter Ullathorne

Auditors
BSN Chartered Accountants
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road Oldbury, West Midlands
B69 2JG

Nominee for Land
Friends Trusts Limited
173-177 Euston Road, London
NW1 2BJ

Nominee for Investment
Rathbone Greenbank Investments
10 Queens Square
Bristol BS1 4NT

Bankers
CAF Bank Limited, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, PO Box 908,
125 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QD

Solicitors
Veale Wasbrough Vizards
3 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2JB

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

A Introduction

Central England Area Meeting trustees are pleased to report on our work in 2023.

During 2023 trustees recruited and appointed Helen Waters as business support administrator to work alongside Sarah Barker, our principal officer. With these two posts in place trustees are happy to report that all contact with the office in Bull Street is dealt with promptly and professionally.

The main work of trustees this year has been:

- Adjusting to different ways of working
- Safeguarding training for trustees and for volunteers in post across the AM
- Discerning the future for some of our property so that it does not become a liability
- Supporting the work of our AM in developing the vision "What does Love require of us"
- Managing our reduced finances with no cash contribution from Priory Rooms for a third year.

B Structure, management and governance

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain is a Christian denomination founded in the seventeenth century.

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain is the final constitutional authority for the Society. Its membership consists of all those who belong to the Area Meetings in Great Britain. Central England Area Meeting is one of approximately 70 constituent Area Meetings established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes which derive from and bear witness to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends. The principal activity of the Area Meeting is the holding of Meetings for Worship which are open to all who wish to attend in its Local Meetings, together with the other Branches and related projects which support the charity's objects in an area roughly bounded by Walsall, Warwick and Stourbridge and includes the Birmingham and Coventry conurbations. There is an office and paid administrator in Bull Street Meeting House in the centre of Birmingham.

On 16 March 2009 the Charity Commission granted the Area Meeting a scheme uniting the former registered and excepted parts of the charity, governing the charities identified in the scheme, to be known together as The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities, registered charity number 224571. The charity's working name is Central England Quakers ("CEQ").

The Charity's Governing Document defines the way it is organised and managed.

This report and the financial statements incorporate the affairs of the LMs (Local Meetings) and Branches. There are currently 14 active Local Meetings (LMs) which make up the Central England Area Meeting. These being:

Local Meetings

- | | |
|----------------------------|--------------------|
| • Barnt Green and Redditch | • Kings Heath |
| • Bournville | • Selly Oak |
| • Bull Street | • Solihull |
| • Cotteridge | • Stourbridge |
| • Coventry | • Sutton Coldfield |
| • Hall Green | • Walsall |
| • Hartshill | • Warwick |

There are 5 'Branches', which are projects or committees set up to further specific pieces of work related to Quaker concerns. These are:

Branches

- West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers)
- Quaker Christmas Parcels
- Community Justice Group
- Peace Committee
- Peace Hub

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023 (continued)

Membership

The total number of members at the end of 2023 was 417 (2022 was 425). At the end of 2023 there were also 245 recorded adult attenders (2022 was 213) and 42 children were recorded at the end of 2023 (2022 was 43).

Trustees

Trustees are appointed by Area Meeting, on the basis of nominations proposed by the CEQ Nominations Committee. (This process is a key part of the Quaker Business Method, and the CEQ Nominations Committee is responsible for considering all vacancies for voluntary roles, and for recommending "names" to area meeting. These "names" are then appointed or declined at the next area business meeting). In line with Quaker practice, trustees are appointed for a three-year term, which can be extended for a second "triennium" by mutual agreement between the trustee and Area Meeting. On occasions trustees serve a third term.

New trustees receive an induction "briefing" and are given the opportunity to attend a training courses for trustees facilitated by the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

Trustees are responsible for monitoring the performance of the charity and managing its activities. In 2023 there were 10 Trustees and they met 5 times (February, May, August and October as planned) with the additional meeting being a second, extra ordinary, meeting in February. Meetings took the form of joint face to face and online meetings (blended).

In the Quaker tradition, decisions about policies, charitable activities and priorities are taken by the members of the Area Meeting at regular business meetings, and not by the charity's trustees who provide advice and guidance and take responsibility for the statutory and legal duties of the charity. Area business meetings are open to all members of the Area Meeting and with agreement to interested attenders. Local Meetings appoint representatives to ensure effective representation. All Local Meetings receive minutes of the business meetings and can comment freely on the work of CEQ.

In 2023 there were 9 Area Meetings for business, plus one Devotional Meeting.

Trading Subsidiary

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of CEQ. This Quaker owned and managed conference centre is located at Bull Street Friends Meeting House. Directors are appointed by CEQ Area Meeting; there are at least two CEQ trustee Directors and at least four non-trustee Directors. The strategic vision for Priory Rooms is described in a "Purpose and Principles" document, and the relationship between the company and CEQ trustees is set out in a detailed Management Agreement.

C Objectives and Activities

Quaker faith is rooted in the belief of living our lives according to our spiritual experience. This is the basis of Quaker testimonies to peace, truth, simplicity, equality and sustainability, which guide Quaker behaviour, work and witness.

The object of Central England 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 Central England Area and beyond.

This includes:

- i. Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings both in the area of Central England Area Meeting and beyond;
- ii. Spreading the message of Quakers and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Religious Society;
- iii. Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad;
- iv. Funding the concerns that Quaker meetings in the area of Central England Area Meeting or beyond have adopted or agreed to support;
- v. Providing the pastoral care of individual members and Attenders including assistance to those in need and for education;
- vi. Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places for public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world;
- vii. Administering and maintaining the organisation of Central England Area Meeting and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023 (continued)

All 14 LMs and 5 Branches have contributed to the furtherance of the charity's objectives through:

Worship

All of the Local Meeting's hold at least one Meeting for Worship each week. Many meetings continue with the use of zoom and offer a blended format. Some meetings have made a conscious decision to periodically hold some of their Meetings for Worship as in-person only events as it was felt that technology can sometimes be a barrier to engagement (as well as a facilitator of it).

Weekly worship in the Local Meetings has been enhanced by Friends coming together for additional activities such as Meetings for Learning, Meetings for Healing, workshops, spiritual journey and 'Experiment with Light' groups. Friends also shared in the reading of Advices and Queries, considered questions posed in the learning resource 'Being Quaker, Doing Quaker' or heard from local Friends who shared their spiritual journey stories. Some Friends attended Pray Brum 24 at St Chad's in Birmingham.

Some of our LM's held residential trips or away days and some used Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, just prior to its closure this year.

4 LMs also have a regular children's meeting and many of them come together periodically to take part in AM wide activities.

Some of our smaller meetings have struggled with low numbers, whilst others have begun to grow and flourish again after periods of difficulty. We aim to support all our Friends, whatever their circumstances.

Community

Friends have been able to enjoy the social support network offered by the Society and partake in shared lunches, coffee and chat sessions, visiting the ill or housebound, craft and chat group and tending to the meeting house gardens.

In June, Hartshill LM joined Friends from other local meetings at St Michael and Angels Church in Fenny Drayton for the unveiling of a Leicestershire Council history green plaque in memory of George Fox.

Some Friends attended one of the final performances of Journeymen Theatre at Bournville Meeting House.

Pastoral support for members and attenders has continued throughout the year, including exploring ways to include everyone both young and old, such as holding Sunday meetings in the retirement home of a Friend or celebrating significant birthdays with a shared Sunday lunch. There have also been Friends who have passed away during the year and will be sadly missed but who have been fondly remembered through memorial meetings.

Local Meetings have engaged with their wider community in a number of ways including: film showings, coffee mornings, warm spaces, and participating in events such as Heritage Day, Music and Dance Festivals and Christmas Festivals. All of the Meeting Houses are let to hirers during the week which offers an opportunity to build relationships with other groups in our communities such as other church groups, youth groups, cultural groups, special interest groups and those who support the vulnerable.

Concerns

Charitable outreach has been approached in wide and varied ways. Many LM's make charitable donations to concerns which they are drawn to. Some LM's have also had invited speakers on issues such as racism and Just Stop Oil. Some have given talks to local groups such as GCSE students on Quakerism and peace. Centrally the Area Meeting has supported its own projects which include Peacemakers, Peace Hub and Quaker Christmas Parcels (QCP).

Quaker Christmas Parcels

As in the past although the 2023 'Big Christmas Parcels Pack' went well on the day with some 1019 parcels distributed at a cost of approximately £18,800 (£18.50/bag), the lead up to 8th/9th December with the ordering of goods was not such a smooth run.

In recent years the team have relied largely on Aldi and Sainsburys for the supply of most of the goods, which are given away to the families of prisoners, refugees and asylum seekers and others, but in 2022 Aldi decided that they would no longer be able to help and in 2023 the project relied almost exclusively on the Selly Oak branch of Sainsburys.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023 (continued)

Quaker Christmas Parcels (Cont)

The ordering was complicated by Sainsbury's not confirming the order initially and not being able to fulfil or only part fulfil some of the order. However, with much support from CEQ volunteers both in the planning and on the Thursday, Friday evening and Saturday morning the stacking, packing and distribution of parcels seemed to go particularly smoothly this year despite packing 150 more parcels than in 2022.

The publicity given to fundraising for Quaker Christmas Parcels and for the recruitment of volunteers worked well in 2023 with income of £17,378, up 17% on 2022, and with approximately 50 volunteers.

Peacemakers

In 2023, the Management Committee met four times, twice in person and twice online. This included the first in-person meetings since 2020. The committee found that this balanced pattern enabled them to effectively and efficiently conduct the business, while allowing time to build a strong working relationship as a committee and with the director. They were glad to be joined by staff for relevant items and this provided us with a valuable opportunity to hear in-depth about aspects of the work.

The new three-year project Planting the Seeds of Peace was launched at the start of 2023 and the name really sums up what Peacemakers are trying to do: plant seeds of peace in children and young people's lives, that it is hoped will flower and fruit in wonderful ways. This is done through a range of programmes, some that have been running for over 30 years (Peacebuilders course) and are still going strong, and some that have been piloted for the first time in 2023 (Peaceful Leadership).

In 2023:

- 54 programmes were delivered
- 558 Children and young people received training
- 415 new peer mediators were trained
- 910 school staff were trained.

The full Peacemakers Annual Report for 2023 can be found [HERE](#).

Peace Hub

In 2023 Peace Hub engaged the public with themes on warm homes, conscientious objection, peaceful neighbourhoods and climate justice. These themes drew on partnerships with Footsteps, Birmingham Friends of the Earth, War Resisters International, the West Midlands Violence Reduction Partnership, and Brum Climate Justice Coalition. The Hub also hosted an exhibition 'Meaningful Textiles – Creation and the Environment' from the Westhill Endowment, which was popular with visitors.

Other work which contributes to our objectives

CEQ is involved in several ecumenical and interfaith activities and has made donations to projects such as Footsteps which brings together people of faith to share ideas and take action on climate change and the environment. Several CEQ members are also chaplains, offering services in prisons, hospitals and local universities.

Meetings and Branches also support local and international charities such as food and clothing banks, international peace and climate change work, assisting asylum seekers, refugees and rough sleepers.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023 (continued)

Friends and activities from across the Central England Area Quaker Meeting



THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

Servicing

The trustees are responsible for the charity's governance and compliance as set out in the governing document. It requires trustees to use the property and income to further the area meeting's objects through for example: strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings; maintaining and developing Quaker meeting houses as places for public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world; and administering and maintaining the organisation of Central England Area Quaker Meeting.

The Governing Document sets out the responsibilities delegated to trustees and defines their role and that of the Area and Local Meetings. One of the trustees responsibilities is to report annually to Area Meeting in session so that Friends can question and be reassured that property, finance, employment, and records are all being well managed and that risks are identified and reviewed regularly.

Trustees are aided in this work by the Service committees for finance, property, employment, and records advisory, each comprising members of Area Meeting and at one or two trustees. The work and discernment done by these Service Committees brings greater depth and accountability to the eventual decisions made by trustees. During 2023 a new service committee, to be called the Lettings Advisory Committee was suggested by trustees and adopted by Area Meeting on 18th March 2023 (minute 2023.023).

During the year the service committees each met quarterly, and their minutes were received at each trustees meeting. Matters for discernment were brought to trustees' quarterly meetings and, when necessary, these decisions were taken to Area Meeting in session for further discernment or for information. Such matters are forwarded by minute or are agreed as agenda items with Area Meeting clerks. In 2023 this included the decision to dispose of some of our properties.

The Local Meetings and Branches (working on Quaker concerns) are all part of the Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charity and have a significant degree of autonomy. One of the challenges for trustees is to ensure compliance with the governing document of the charity. This is done informally by the 'link trustees' and formally by the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that is completed by the separate bodies that make up the charity. During 2023 all Local Meetings and Branches completed the checklist to ensure the MoU between them and trustees was complied with.

D Performance and monitoring

As described above, trustees manage the performance of the charity through service committees which oversee finance, property, employment, safeguarding and records management. Liaison with and support for the LMs and Branches is provided by a 'Link Trustee' who reports on key issues via a report to the trustees meeting.

Following the appointment of the Principal Officer, who took up post in June 2022, a Scheme of Delegation was developed to help clarify roles and responsibilities. The PO role supports the work of the trustees and their committees and seeks to undertake some of the practical work previously carried out by volunteers, releasing members to focus on the spiritual elements of the charity. The PO also provides a report for each of the service committees' and trustees' meetings, highlighting key activities, risks and decisions which need to be considered.

The Risk Register was updated during the year and is now a standing agenda item at trustee meetings.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding team comprises 2 trustees (the Safeguarding Coordinator and deputy Safeguarding Coordinator) and the group also includes the Principal Officer. Each LM also has its own Safeguarding Lead.

During 2023 there were no formal safeguarding referrals from CEQ made to statutory agencies such as social care or the police. However, there were a number of events or incidents where Friends sought support from the Safeguarding Team and one particular case which led to significant liaison with agencies such as the police and probation.

In Spring 2023 basic awareness training was facilitated by the team to approximately 100 volunteers and a safeguarding audit was undertaken and annual report prepared which was shared with trustees at the end of the year (January 2024). The AM Safeguarding Coordinator, AM Deputy Safeguarding Coordinator, Clerk of Trustees and Principal Officer attended and completed a 31:8 online 'Safeguarding for Trustees' course.

No issues were escalated to the Charity Commission. The full procedure and toolkit was updated in 2023 and approved by Trustees at their October meeting. These are available via the CEQ website.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

E Financial Review

Grants Policy

The Area Meeting is not a grant-making charity and the items referred to as 'grants' mostly consist of the gifts (from central funds and Local Meetings) to the charity's parent body, Britain Yearly Meeting, contributions to other Quaker work, donations to non-Quaker charities (mainly by Local Meetings acting under concern) and subscriptions to ecumenical bodies of which CEQ is a member. In 2023 the following donations were made from charitable funds to external beneficiaries (£): -

<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>£</u>
Overseas beneficiaries	0
Non-CEQ Quaker charities	8,330
Britain Yearly Meeting	34,900
Non-Quaker charities	37,340 *
Non-charities	500
TOTAL	81,070

* includes a £20,000 donation to ecobirmingham (formerly a CEQ Branch but from July 2018 an independent CIO).

The funds used for these purposes derive from members' donations and investment income and not from the general public. All of the donations (as listed above) were approved at a formal business meeting, and recorded by Minute.

Reserves policy and performance

The reserves policy for the Area Meeting's central funds was first approved by trustees in April 2009. It is regularly reviewed and was further revised in 2022. A copy can be found on the CEQ website.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- a) to ensure that the charity has adequate funds to undertake its charitable activities and protect itself from fluctuations in income or expenditure and
- b) to reassure CEQ members and the public that it is using its income for charitable work, and not accumulating excessive reserves.

All the cash funds contained at least the target values, set out in the policy, on 31st December 2023.

These being:

- General Fund: bank balance £30,000
- Trustee Fund: bank balance £60,000
- Trustee Building Fund: bank balance £60,000

Most LMs and Branches also carry some reserves to cover their day to day needs and guidance has been issued by the finance committee with regards to this, including encouraging them to develop individual reserves policies.

Investment Properties

In addition to the Meeting Houses which are used by LMs the charity also has a number of other properties and land which are used for regular lettings or leased on a longer term basis to bring in additional revenue to support the charity's objectives. These are managed centrally by the trustees and Principal Officer.

Priory Rooms Ltd (trading subsidiary)

Although 2023 continued to see a return to pre-pandemic business levels for Priory Rooms they were affected by transport strikes which impacted on their business. They also had to continue building up their reserves again, meaning they were unable to make any donations to CEQ. The Service Agreement between the Charity and Priory Rooms, previously started in 2020, continued in 2023 and included the provision of services to support 4 centrally managed Meeting Houses.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

Overall financial results for the year

Overall 2023 has been a good year for Central England Quakers with the majority of our Meetings enjoying regular worship and witness activities. Income is fairly evenly split between donations, rentals and income-generating activities and the overall level has risen to £975,000 (2021 £726k, 2022 £766k). This increase is in part due to successful grant applications by our Branches, one LM who are raising substantial funds for their building renovations and also the improved performance of our investments. As we look to the future, we are grateful to all those who support our Meetings and our project work. Our expenditure has remained fairly consistent with last year at £992,000 (2021 £821k, 2022 987k). We therefore report a deficit of £17,000 this year compared with £220,000 in the previous year. Encouragingly the market value of our investments increased this year and we report an overall gain of £369,000 for the year. We anticipate that we can further improve this situation in the following years as we focus on our key priorities and more efficient management of resources. Our balance sheet remains strong at the end of 2023.

A more detailed breakdown of the charity accounts is included in the accompanying Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and notes, however the overall financial picture remains positive, particularly given the ongoing challenges of the pandemic, strikes, high utility costs and substantial expenditure on governance and property repairs and maintenance. Overall, the charity is in a sound position as it goes into 2024.

F Going Concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern, the evidence for which is as follows:

The key funds held by the charity are overall above target levels, as defined in the Reserves Policy. Principal sources of income are the rents from investment properties, donations from members and the hire of rooms. The rent income is underpinned by the length and stability of the leases, with no known risk of any significant reduction. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the charity's finances which continued into 2023, but there are sufficient reserves to support the charity through this period. The risks faced by the charity are well understood, with extensive mitigation measures in place. Specific financial risks are incorporated in the reserves policy. With the exception of one of its Branches, the charity is not dependent on external funding or fundraising for its income, and the relatively small scale of the activities limits the risks associated with this Branch. Property (repair and maintenance) risks are mitigated by the regular (quinquennial) building surveys undertaken, and by the comprehensive insurance cover that is in place. Major unforeseen expenditure on property is protected by the substantial (c. £500,000) central Building Fund held in reserve.

G Public Benefit Statement

The trustees consider they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The charity makes available and provides the following to further its purposes for the public benefit:

- ✓ Regular holding of public Meetings for Worship.
- ✓ Provision of information about the Quaker way to "seekers", through courses, discussion, study groups and literature.
- ✓ Meeting Houses which are used by many different groups and are of value to the local community.
- ✓ Support for a Dance School, which leases Redditch Meeting House, and provides tuition for young people.
- ✓ Support for ecobirmingham, an environmental charity which leases property in Northfield.
- ✓ Information on energy-saving and lifestyle improvements through CEQ Climate Emergency Action Group.
- ✓ Training in mediation skills in schools and anti-bullying strategies, provided online by the West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers).
- ✓ Gifts of food for families in need, through the Quaker Christmas Parcels project and involvement with foodbanks in local areas.
- ✓ Housing and care for elderly people, in partnership with other Quaker charities.
- ✓ Funding for overseas work and for witness in UK.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2023 (continued)

Trustees consider that the following in particular benefit from the charity's activities:

- ✓ Members of the public
- ✓ All who are interested in the Religious Society of Friends, its worship, values, testimonies, business methods, projects and concerns.
- ✓ Members of CEQ, who are encouraged to participate actively in the work of the charity and its decision making. Quakers have no paid clergy, and volunteers who are given training as required, and acquire knowledge and skills, carry out much of the work.
- ✓ "Attenders" at Meetings for Worship, who are permitted to take an active part in many Quaker roles, and who may benefit as above.
- ✓ Local communities, which benefit from the use of Quaker Meeting Houses.
- ✓ Local councils, which may benefit from the use of Meeting Houses as polling stations and councillors' surgeries.
- ✓ Prisoners supported by Quaker prison chaplains, and Quakers involved in the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Asylum seekers, who are supported by various projects and through the work done on their behalf.
- ✓ Mental health patients and students in the Birmingham area, who benefit from the work of Quaker chaplains.
- ✓ Older people, through the provision of residential care.
- ✓ People interested in developing a more sustainable, low carbon lifestyle, through the Eco Church scheme and the services of ecobirmingham.

H Future Plans

- Continue to explore ways of supporting our Local Meeting and branches to enable them to continue, whilst releasing volunteers of some of the more burdensome roles.
- Facilitate opportunities for all age worship and social events across the AM.
- Continue to review our property portfolio and ensure we are utilizing our resources efficiently and effectively.
- Explore ways to continue to grow the membership of the society and witness in our communities.
- Explore opportunities to develop the Peace Hub, including piloting new ways of working with volunteers and developing new projects.
- Continue to promote and increase the uptake of peace education in the UK for 7-11 year olds.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow trustees and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

Sandra Berry)
) trustees
Anne Ullathorne)

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THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities and group for the year ended 31 December 2023 which comprise of the charity and group statement of financial activities, the charity and group statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charity's affairs as at 31 December 2023 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's or the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- certain disclosures of Trustee remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- returns adequate for our audit have not been received from Branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. We have audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business. We have also made enquiries of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

P. Miller - Hawkes.

Philippa Miller-Hawkes BA CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
BSN Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2JG

6 August 2024

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	122,875	174,339	297,214	240,565
Charitable activities	218,705	43,147	261,852	224,784
Investment Income	292,859	14,333	307,192	291,806
Gift from Priory Rooms	60,000	-	60,000	-
Other Income	45,099	4,295	49,394	9,406
Total income	739,538	236,114	975,652	766,561
Expenditure				
Cost of raising funds	(9,001)	(15,424)	(24,425)	(16,627)
Charitable activities	(700,026)	(267,683)	(967,709)	(970,512)
Total expenditure	(709,027)	(283,107)	(992,134)	(987,139)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	334,571	51,258	385,829	(310,197)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers	365,085	4,265	369,347	(530,775)
Transfers between funds	(43,350)	43,350	-	-
Net movement in funds	321,732	47,615	369,347	(530,775)
Total funds brought forward	7,634,668	972,069	8,606,737	9,137,512
Total funds carried forward	7,956,400	1,019,684	8,976,084	8,606,737

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2023	Total 2022
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		122,875	174,339	297,214	240,565
Charitable activities		218,705	43,147	261,852	224,784
Other trading activities		686,710	-	686,710	515,915
Investment Income		292,859	14,333	307,192	291,806
Other Income		42,099	4,295	46,394	13,406
Total income	4	1,363,248	236,114	1,599,362	1,286,476
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(595,091)	(15,424)	(610,515)	(497,046)
Charitable activities	6	(667,012)	(267,683)	(934,695)	(931,155)
Total expenditure		(1,262,103)	(283,107)	(1,545,210)	(1,428,201)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	334,571	51,258	385,829	(310,197)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		435,716	4,265	439,981	(451,922)
Transfers between funds	7	(43,350)	43,350	-	-
Net movement in funds		392,366	47,615	439,981	(451,922)
Total funds brought forward		7,839,943	972,069	8,812,012	9,263,934
Total funds carried forward		8,232,309	1,019,684	9,251,993	8,812,012

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY AND CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2023

	Note	Charity 2023	Charity 2022	Group 2023	Group 2022
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	1,314,314	1,402,865	1,328,800	1,414,801
Investments	12	6,770,652	6,468,209	6,770,652	6,468,209
Total fixed assets		8,084,966	7,871,074	8,099,453	7,883,010
Current assets					
Debtors	13	80,003	23,890	103,953	143,550
Cash at bank and in hand		908,038	749,920	1,209,838	884,356
Total current assets		988,041	773,810	1,313,791	1,027,906
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within 1 year	14	(96,923)	(38,147)	(159,071)	(105,696)
Net current assets		891,118	735,663	1,154,720	922,210
Total assets less current liabilities		8,976,084	8,606,737	9,254,172	8,805,220
Creditors falling due after 1 year	14	-	-	-	-
Provisions	16	-	-	2,179	(6,793)
Net assets	19	8,976,084	8,606,737	9,251,993	8,812,013
Unrestricted		6,376,062	6,204,538	6,651,971	6,409,814
Restricted	17	1,019,684	972,069	1,019,684	972,069
Designated	18	1,580,338	1,430,130	1,580,338	1,430,130
Total funds		8,976,084	8,606,737	9,251,993	8,812,013

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 6th August 2024 and signed on their behalf by:

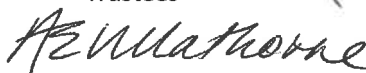
Sandra Berry

)


Trustees

Anne Ullathorne

)



THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

	2023	2022
	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Net movement in funds	439,981	(451,921)
Depreciation Charge	96,529	112,379
Dividends and interest	(307,192)	(291,806)
Losses/(gains) on investments	(385,829)	310,197
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	39,597	(85,171)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and provisions	62,346	41,284
Net cash used in operating activities	(54,568)	(365,038)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest received	307,192	291,806
Purchase of fixed assets	(10,528)	(5,118)
Net sale/(purchase) of investments	83,386	47,479
Net cash provided by investing activities	380,050	334,167
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of borrowing	-	-
Management of liquid resources		
Movement in short term deposits	(8,770)	(19,603)
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	316,712	(50,474)
Increase/(decrease) in short term deposits	8,770	19,603
Cash at bank and in hand	752,245	802,719
Short term deposits	132,111	112,508
Net funds brought forward	884,356	915,227
Cash at bank and in hand	1,068,957	752,245
Short term deposits	140,881	132,111
Net funds carried forward	1,209,838	884,356

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

1. General information

The charity is a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the area meeting office is: 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements incorporate the affairs of Central England Area Quaker Meeting and the Local Meetings and other Branches set out in note 20 to the financial statements. Transfers between the Local Meetings, the Branches and the Area Meeting are eliminated from income and expenditure. The financial statements also exclude those donations received by the Area Meeting and Local Meetings, which are paid over to various charities at the donors' requests.

The financial statements also incorporate, where applicable and where amounts are described as 'group', the affairs of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary.

The subsidiary, which is a limited company and not a charity has been consolidated on a line by line basis. Inter group balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Central England Quakers (CEQ) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The Trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, as set out in their report.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate the availability of funds they are categorised according to the following definitions:

- Unrestricted general funds are available for any purpose of the Charity.
- Designated funds represent amounts set aside for specific purposes but which remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting; and
- Restricted funds represent contributions, legacies and donations received earmarked by the testator or donor for specific purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised as above except where the income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, when the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the charity has been notified of the amount and settlement date.

Investment income is recognised when receivable and is shown gross to include income tax recovered and recoverable. Other income is accounted for on the basis of amounts receivable for the year.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many members, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of members is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services or facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on using the accruals basis, inclusive of any value added tax that cannot be recovered.

Taxation

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is chargeable to corporation tax on its income and capital gains. Otherwise Central England Area Quaker Meeting is a charity and is exempt from taxation on income derived from its charitable activities. Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited provides for taxation deferred as a result of timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Tangible fixed assets

The charity owns a number of functional properties comprising Meeting Houses, wardens' accommodation and their contents, and other buildings used by CEQ Branches. These buildings are held in perpetuity for Meetings for Worship or other charitable activities, and contribute to the furtherance of the Central England Quaker's charitable objectives and are considered to be heritage assets under FRS 102. The heritage assets have been grouped together in the following categories:

Meeting Houses, Wardens' Accommodation and other buildings

There is no cost or accumulated depreciation recognised for these heritage assets, as allowable under Section 18 of FRS 102. Whilst it is believed that the market value, both at the time of acquisition and at the balance sheet date, was significantly in excess of £nil deemed cost and net book value, it is not possible to obtain a reliable estimate of the market value at either date. Conventional valuation techniques are not appropriate for the unique and historical nature of the assets. In addition, the Trustees consider it an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain valuations for all 16 properties and not befitting of the objectives of the charity.

Major expenditure on improvements to property at 40 Bull Street incurred during 1999 were capitalised and are being depreciated at 5% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. Expenditure on the conference centre in Bull Street is being depreciated at 2% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. A replacement heating system for 40 Bull Street was installed during 2020 and is being depreciated at 10% per annum on cost from 1 November 2020. This has been included within the Refurbishment of Meeting House asset category in note 11.

Any developments or improvements to the building greater than £10,000 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over the improvement's useful economic life. Maintenance costs are charged to the SOFA in the period they are incurred.

Contents of Meeting Houses

A number of the Meeting Houses contents have also been recognised at £nil cost and £nil accumulated depreciation as it is impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's resources to value the specific items in the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

3. Accounting policies (continued)

The Trustees capitalise individual items of equipment costing £10,000 or more where there is a continuing economic value and a reliable measurement of cost or fair value is available. These assets are depreciated annually so as to write off the cost over their economic useful lives. In the subsidiary company equipment is capitalised where the asset has a continuing economic value.

Other fixed assets, which have been capitalised, are being depreciated at the following annual rates on cost:

Furniture and fittings	-	at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	-	25% on cost
Heating and hot water system	-	10 years
Refurbishment of Meeting house	-	20 years
Conference Centre etc.	-	50 years

Investments

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange and fair value is equivalent to the market value. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at bid price. The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial interests.

Investment properties are re-valued periodically or when changes in rental income necessitate revaluation. Fair value is generally open market value.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Short term deposits comprise funds held in savings or deposit (rather than current) accounts which are surplus to immediate cash flow requirements and are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Pension costs

The charity and its subsidiary contribute to defined contribution schemes for some of their employees. The pension cost represents the total amount payable to the schemes in the year. The pension cost is directly charged to funds with contributory employees.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

4. Income

The comparative amounts for 2022 between consolidated funds are:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022
Donations and legacies	90,643	149,922	240,565
Charitable activities	177,351	47,433	224,784
Other trading activities	515,915	-	515,915
Investment Income	280,166	11,640	291,806
Other Income	9,372	4,034	13,406
Total income	1,073,447	213,029	1,286,476

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

5. Costs of raising funds (Group)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	£
Priory Rooms (Bull St) Limited:				
Meeting & conference facilities	569,714	-	569,714	462,085
Corporation Tax	16,376	-	16,376	18,334
Commercial lettings:				
Letting fees	2,714	-	2,714	4,917
Other	6,287	15,424	21,711	11,710
	595,091	15,424	610,515	497,046
2022	490,644	6,402	497,046	

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (Group)

Support, governance and other costs are directly incurred by the various funds, there is no apportionment required centrally and there are no central function costs.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
	£	£	£	
Payroll costs	109,286	129,695	238,981	200,969
Repairs and maintenance	154,419	17,013	171,432	216,276
Costs of Quaker activities	111,018	42,156	153,174	175,949
Depreciation	96,529	-	96,529	112,379
Other employee costs	54,121	56,046	110,167	82,813
Utilities	73,983	14,573	88,556	62,540
Insurance	29,935	2,733	32,668	27,398
Costs of governance	25,047	27	25,074	36,993
Other costs	12,674	5,440	18,114	15,838
	667,012	267,683	934,695	931,155
2022	691,440	239,715	931,155	

Included within the expenditure on activities are amounts paid to defined contribution pension plans for employees of £12,439 (2022: £9,542).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (*continued*)

Costs of governance includes the auditors' remuneration of £10,362 (2022: £10,031) for auditing and accounting fees which is incurred by the central funds and is not apportioned to individual Branches. The amount also includes irrecoverable value added tax.

7. Restricted Transfers

The transfers into the restricted fund were grants from the Trustees General fund into the Peacemakers for £30,000 and the Peace Hub £3,000 as well as donations raised from local meetings to support the ongoing work of these branches.

8. Staff details and analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

The Trustees consider the Principal Officer to be key management who undertakes much of the day to day management on their behalf.

The Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year (2022: £Nil). No Trustees received reimbursement of travelling expenses in 2023 (2022: £Nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2022: £Nil).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2022: £Nil). Pension costs are incurred directly by the cost centre where staff are employed and allocated to the various funds accordingly.

There are 7 statutory directors of the subsidiary (2022: 7) who receive no remuneration or benefits.

The average number of employees during the year analysed by function was:

	2023	2022
Conference facilities	13	11
Other Branches and projects	5	5
Wardens, caretakers and gardeners	4	5
Administration	2	1
	<u>24</u>	<u>22</u>

The total staff costs for the year were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Wages and salaries – conference facilities	260,680	211,944
Wages and salaries – other	214,512	182,266
National insurance	28,936	22,144
Pension costs	24,817	20,019
	<u>528,945</u>	<u>436,373</u>

All conference facilities staff are employed by the subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. These costs are included in costs of raising funds.

9. Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2023 £	2022 £
Unrestricted	237,286	(30,020)
Designated	97,285	(152,029)
Restricted	51,258	(128,148)
Total net gains / (losses)	<u>385,829</u>	<u>(310,197)</u>

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

10. Related party transactions

Included within donations to the charity is an aggregate amount of £7,445 (2022: £10,031) received from the Trustees.

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	854,667	2,015,647	253,614	35,683	3,159,611
Additions	-	-	7,288	3,240	10,528
At 31 December 2023	854,667	2,015,647	260,902	38,923	3,170,139
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2023	707,668	759,781	242,594	34,767	1,744,810
Charge for year	48,238	40,313	7,318	660	96,529
At 31 December 2023	755,906	800,094	249,912	35,427	1,841,339
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2023	98,761	1,215,553	10,990	3,496	1,328,800
At 31 December 2022	146,999	1,255,866	11,020	916	1,414,801
Charity					
	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2023	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2023	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2023	707,668	759,781	10,262	-	1,477,711
Charge for year	48,238	40,313	-	-	88,551
At 31 December 2023	755,906	800,094	10,262	-	1,566,262
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2023	98,761	1,215,553	-	-	1,314,314
At 31 December 2022	146,999	1,255,866	-	-	1,402,865

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

11. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

All Group tangible assets are classified as unrestricted funds as they are held as part of the Trustees Fund where all assets are used for whatever is deemed appropriate to further the charity's objectives.

Conference Centre

The centre consists of a conference suite and ground level refreshment area for the use of the charity and other Quaker and charitable bodies together with significant commercial use. The operation of the centre is managed by the charity's subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. The conference centre is being depreciated at 2% per annum from 1 January 2004.

Heritage assets

As described in the accounting policies note, there is a cost and accumulated depreciation of £nil for the Meeting Houses and wardens' accommodation owned and used by the charity and group for Worship and charity activities. The buildings are maintained by the charity for their contribution to knowledge and culture of the Quaker faith. It would be impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain market valuations for such unique assets and their contents. A description is given of each of the assets below and the year in which the Meeting Houses were constructed. On the basis of the age of the properties, had the original cost been capitalised, the Trustees are of the view that the assets would be fully depreciated at the balance sheet date. No reliable information exists to include original cost and accumulated depreciation amounts.

The charity is the beneficial owner of the following heritage asset properties:

Type of property	Year	Address
Freehold		
Meeting House	1969	6 Sandhills Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NR
Meeting House and wardens' bungalow	1964	23 Watford Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1JB
Meeting House	1930	Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB
Meeting House and Conference Centre	1931	40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF
CEQ Peace Hub	1931	41 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
Meeting House	1953	Hill Street, Coventry, CV1 4AN
Meeting House	1892	George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1JP
Meeting House	1927	Hamlet Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9BG
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1972	112 Castle Road, Hartshill, CV10 0SG
Meeting House	1983	17 Colmore Row, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7PE
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1695	39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
Meeting House	1939	Kenelm Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6HD
Woodlands Quaker Home	1945	434 Penin Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4DH
Long leasehold		
Meeting House	1689	Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR
Meeting House	1905	65 Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT
Short leasehold		
Meeting House	1926	930 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NP

The heritage asset contents of the above properties for which there is no recorded cost are classified into the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents. The Trustees preserve these assets by keeping a register of assets held at each Branch and insuring the assets appropriately to protect them from damage or loss.

The titles to all of the properties owned by the charity and group are held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee with strict restrictions on disposition of the freehold which requires authorisation by an order of the court.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

12. Fixed asset investments

Group investments:

	2023		2022	
	Freehold properties	Listed securities	Freehold properties	Listed securities
	£	£	£	£
Market value brought forward	4,465,650	2,002,559	4,465,650	2,360,235
Net additions/(sales)	-	(83,386)	-	(47,479)
Revaluation	216,500	169,329	-	(310,197)
Total Group investments	4,682,150	2,088,502	4,465,650	2,002,559

Group fixed asset investments are held between funds as follows:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Unrestricted	4,919,968	4,682,685
Restricted	800,486	742,447
Designated	1,050,198	1,043,077
Total Group investments	6,770,652	6,468,209

Charity investments:

	2023	2022
	£	£
Market value		
Freehold properties	4,682,150	4,465,650
Listed securities	2,088,502	2,002,559
Total Charity investments	6,770,652	6,468,209

Freehold Properties

The charity and group own the following freehold investment properties held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee:

Two bungalows adjacent to Barnt Green Meeting House at 6a & 6b Sandhills Road, Barnt Green. The 6a property was valued on an open market basis at £180,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The 6b property, formerly a warden's bungalow, was converted to private rented accommodation and reclassified as an investment property in May 2021, and both properties are subject to shorthold tenancies. The 6b property was valued on an open market basis at £195,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 30 March 2022.

The property known as Redditch Meeting House, Matchborough, Redditch, B98 0ER. Following the termination of a lease to Worcester County Council (from 2009 to 2015), the property was let on short lease from 1 November 2015 to Latham School of Dance and from 1 August 2018 to Amelia's Dance Academy. The property was revalued on an open market basis at £180,000 by KWB, Chartered Surveyors in July 2024.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Private flat and community cafe at 39 High Street Warwick CV34 4AX. The property was valued on an open market basis at £120,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The property has been let to private tenant(s) since June 2016.

Office accommodation at 51 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. It is leased to Oulsnam and a renewed ten year lease from 25 December 2013 was signed in August 2014. This is now a rolling tenancy.

Office accommodation at 53 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. It is leased to ecobirmingham, and a 3 year lease was signed from July 2023. Both 51 and 53 Church Rd have been valued by KWB chartered surveyors to be worth a total of £300,000 collectively in May 2024.

A bungalow adjacent to the Meeting House in Selly Oak was formerly warden's accommodation and treated as a functional property but during 2014 it was adapted for commercial letting, and was reclassified as an investment property. The property was valued on an open market basis at £27,150 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

A flat within the Hartshill Meeting House has been converted into private rented accommodation and was reclassified as an investment property for 2019. The flat was valued at £65,000 on an open market basis by Lawrence & Wightman on 31 December 2020.

An office development on land owned by the Area Meeting at 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham. The land is let on a 250 years lease from 29 September 1999 and was valued on an open market basis at £3,615,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

The types of investment held at 31 December 2023 and their market values were:

	2023 £	2022 £
Listed investments (incl. loan stocks)	232,409	211,623
Investment properties	4,682,150	4,465,650
Social investments	5,409	5,409
Other investments (Unit Trusts, Branch & Trustee Reserves)	1,850,684	1,785,527
Total Group investments	6,770,652	6,468,209

Unlisted investments

The charity owns 100% of the Ordinary share capital of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited (company number: 05129631). There is no investment cost included for the subsidiary in the charity's balance sheet, with all profit is donated back to the parent entity to support with the charitable objectives of Central England Quakers.

	2023 £	2022 £
Aggregate capital and reserves	275,910	205,276
Profit for the year after taxation	70,634	78,853

At the year end, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited made a pledge to £60,000 to the parent charity. There was no such donation in the prior year due to the performance of the trading subsidiary.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

The following is a summary of the profit for the year after taxation in Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited.

	2023	2022
	£	£
Sales of conference facilities	727,702	569,925
Cost of sales	(123,507)	(97,199)
Distribution costs	(3,570)	(3,418)
Administrative expenses	(450,615)	(376,121)
Other operating income	-	4,000
Donations to parent company	(60,000)	-
Management charge to parent charity	(3,000)	-
Operating profit/(loss)	87,010	97,187
Income and realised gains from investments	-	-
Gain on financial assets at fair value	-	-
Profit before taxation	87,010	97,187
Taxation (note 16)	(16,376)	(18,334)
Profit after taxation	70,634	78,853

The company paid a dividend of £Nil to the parent charity during the year (2022: £nil).

13. Debtors

	2023	2022
	£	£
Group		
Trade debtors	56,917	97,091
Other debtors	47,036	46,459
	103,953	143,550
	2023	2022
	£	£
Charity		
Trade Debtors	-	-
Other debtors	20,003	23,890
Amounts owed by trading subsidiary	60,000	-
	80,003	23,890

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Group		
Trade creditors	4,242	6,773
Social security and other taxes	41,207	44,293
Corporation tax	7,404	-
Accruals	91,333	36,569
Other creditors	14,885	18,061
	159,071	105,696
	2023	2022
	£	£
Charity		
Social security and other taxes	13,057	12,592
Accruals and deferred income	83,866	25,555
	96,923	38,147

Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year

	2023	2022
	£	£
Group	-	-
	-	-

15. Secured assets

Freehold land and buildings at Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4DH, have been given as security for loan finance x 3 obtained in the Charity's name from Triodos Bank NV, Quaker Housing Trust and Orchard Brook Ltd and in turn made available to Woodlands Quaker Home in respect of expenditure on new buildings. The amount of loan finance outstanding at 31 December 2023 was £28,112 on the Triodos loan. The Triodos loan was repaid in full in March 2024. The loans are not included in these financial statements as the charity does not expect to have to meet any part of the debt. The last relevant market valuation for the secured property was £1,450,000 in May 2019 (inc. the business).

Friends Trusts Ltd, as nominee for land, is a party to the leases (excluding tenancy agreements) pertaining to CEQ investment properties, which are 1 Colmore Square, Redditch Meeting House, 51 Church Road, 53 Church Road and the Woodlands.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

16. Provision for liabilities

	2023 £	2022 £
Deferred tax		
Accelerated capital allowances	2,381	1,815
Trading losses	-	(8,608)
Unpaid remuneration	(202)	-
	<u>2,179</u>	<u>(6,793)</u>
		Deferred tax £
Balance at 1 January 2023		(6,793)
Provided during year		8,972
		<u>2,179</u>
At 31 December 2023		2,179

The provision for deferred taxation arises in the charity's subsidiary company. The provision relates to unrestricted funds in 2023 and 2022.

17. Restricted funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	143,807	52,079	(44,841)	8,870	8,202	168,117
Other Branches	173,647	174,509	(234,341)	2,082	41,466	157,363
CJG	-	-	-	-	3,302	3,302
Building Fund	437,706	9,526	(3,925)	19,001	(9,620)	452,688
Trustees Reserves	216,909	-	-	21,305	-	238,214
Restricted funds	972,069	236,114	(283,107)	51,258	43,350	1,019,684

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Other Branches consist of those bodies set up by the Area Meeting for particular purposes and identified in the Trustees Report. The definition of a Branch is a committee or project that has its own bank account. As described in the Trustees Report, branches of note are West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (known as "Peacemakers") and Peace Hub.

CJG was a branch with its own bank account until the end of 2023, when it closed its account and transferred the balance to the General Fund, but the funds donated by Friends are given specifically for CJG activity and are therefore restricted and reported separately.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

17. Restricted funds (Charity and Group) (Continued)

Building Fund Investments (previously classified as designated) comprise of investments held to support the maintenance, repair and improvement of the charity's Meeting Houses. The income from the investments is applied to a designated "Building Fund" bank account from which grants and loans are made to individual Local Meetings.

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. The two Funds which remain restricted are the proceeds of Atherstone Meeting House with income applied to Hartshill Local Meeting and the proceeds of Cotteridge Land Sale with income applied to Cotteridge Local Meeting.

18. Designated funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	944,074	442,473	(357,277)	57,923	(29,354)	1,057,839
Building Fund	70,106	111	(94)	-	(2,768)	67,355
Black Country	15,189	8,332	-	-	(8,500)	15,021
Trustees Reserves	400,761	3,924	-	39,362	(3,924)	400,123
Designated funds	1,430,130	454,840	(357,371)	97,285	(44,546)	1,580,338

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

The Building Fund receives income from Building Fund Investments (see Restricted Funds) and provides loans or grants to assist Local Meetings to maintain their properties if a major repair is beyond their means and to carry out agreed improvements to premises.

The Black Country Fund is a designated fund established by area meeting in June 2015 to support the development of Quakerism in the Black Country. From 2024 this will be merged with the Trustee Fund as it has no income source and will reduce the number of internal transfers.

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

19. Analysis of Group assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Fixed Asset Investments	Net Current Assets	Creditors due after one year	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	1,328,800	4,919,968	405,382	2,179	6,651,971
Restricted funds					
Local Meetings	-	97,589	70,526	-	168,115
Other Branches	-	23,282	134,082	-	157,364
Building Fund	-	441,400	11,288	-	452,688
Community Justice Group	-	-	3,302	-	3,302
Trustees Reserves	-	238,215	-	-	238,215
Designated funds					
Local Meetings	-	610,075	447,764	-	1,057,839
Building Fund	-	-	67,355	-	67,355
Black Country	-	-	15,021	-	15,021
Trustee Reserves	-	440,123	-	-	440,123
	1,328,800	6,770,652	1,154,720	2,179	9,251,993

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2023

20. Consolidated (Group) Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		90,643	149,922	240,565	185,851
Charitable activities		177,351	47,433	224,784	222,727
Other trading activities		515,915	-	515,915	110,094
Investment Income		280,166	11,640	291,806	274,766
Other Income		9,372	4,034	13,406	126,212
Total income	4	1,073,447	213,029	1,286,476	919,650
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(490,644)	(6,402)	(497,046)	(353,193)
Charitable activities	6	(691,440)	(239,715)	(931,155)	(772,263)
Total expenditure		(1,182,084)	(246,117)	(1,428,201)	(1,125,456)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(182,049)	(182,049)	(310,197)	453,309
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(290,686)	(161,236)	(451,922)	247,504
Transfers between funds	7	(41,640)	41,640	-	-
Net movement in funds		(332,326)	(119,596)	(451,922)	247,504
Total funds brought forward		8,172,269	1,091,665	9,263,934	9,016,428
Total funds carried forward		7,839,943	972,069	8,812,012	9,263,934

21. Capital commitments

There was no future capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements at 31 December 2023 and 31 December 2022.

22. Events after the reporting period

During the 2024 financial year, the Trustees agreed to put the investment properties 51/53 Church Road, Northfield and Redditch Meeting House up for sale. Offers of £300,000 and £190,000 respectively have been received for these investment properties. The Trustees have agreed to the sale of 51/53 Church Road, Northfield and the Property Committee are currently considering the offer received to purchase Redditch Meeting House. The offers are in line with renewed valuations which were provided to Trustees by KWB, Chartered surveyors and these valuations, which were higher than expected, have been reflected in the 2023 accounts.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 224571

Accounts

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

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THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities
Working charity name	Central England Quakers (CEQ)
Charity registration number	224571
Area meeting office	40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
The Trustees	Christine Bagnall Patricia Bradbury James Green Judith Jenner (Clerk) (<i>to December 2022</i>) John Kimberley Robert Morris Carole Pannell Anthony Pegler (<i>to December 2022</i>) Steven Pullan Gillian Smith Jill Stow (<i>to February 2022</i>) Sue Thompson (<i>to May 2022</i>) Peter Ullathorne
Auditors	BSN Chartered Accountants 3B Swallowfield Courtyard Wolverhampton Road Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2JG
Nominee for Land	Friends Trusts Limited 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Nominee for Investment	Rathbone Greenbank Investments 10 Queens Square Bristol BS1 4NT
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, PO Box 908, 125 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QD
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards 3 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2JB

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

A Introduction

Central England Area Meeting trustees are pleased to report on our work in 2022. This was a significant year following our decision to recruit and appoint a principal officer after many years of examining our governance. Sarah Barker took up this new role in June and although new to the charity has taken on the challenge of getting to know the people and the organisation. In 2022 Covid restrictions were eased and Friends have been adapting to a different normal. During the year the Area Meeting has been spending time considering our vision and priorities for the future. This has been an exciting time, which will continue into 2023, when our process of discernment will help us to arrive at a renewed focus as we go forward.

B Structure, management and governance

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain is a Christian denomination founded in the seventeenth century.

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain is the final constitutional authority for the Society. Its membership consists of all those who belong to the Area Meetings in Great Britain. Central England Area Meeting is one of approximately 70 constituent Area Meetings established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes which derive from and bear witness to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends. The principal activity of the Area Meeting is the holding of Meetings for Worship which are open to all who wish to attend in its Local Meetings, together with the other Branches and related projects which support the charity's objects in an area roughly bounded by Walsall, Warwick and Stourbridge and includes the Birmingham and Coventry conurbations. There is an office and paid administrator in Bull Street Meeting House in the centre of Birmingham.

On 16 March 2009 the Charity Commission granted the Area Meeting a scheme uniting the former registered and excepted parts of the charity, governing the charities identified in the scheme, to be known together as The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities, registered charity number 224571. The charity's working name is Central England Quakers ("CEQ").

The Charity's Governing Document defines the way it is organised and managed.

This report and the financial statements incorporate the affairs of the LMs (Local Meetings) and Branches. There are currently 14 active Local Meetings (LMs) which make up the Central England Area Meeting. These being:

Local Meetings

Barnt Green and Redditch
Bournville
Bull Street
Cotteridge
Coventry
Hall Green
Hartshill
Kings Heath
Selly Oak
Solihull
Stourbridge
Sutton Coldfield
Walsall
Warwick

There are 5 'Branches', which are projects or committees set up to further specific pieces of work related to Quaker concerns. These are:

Branches

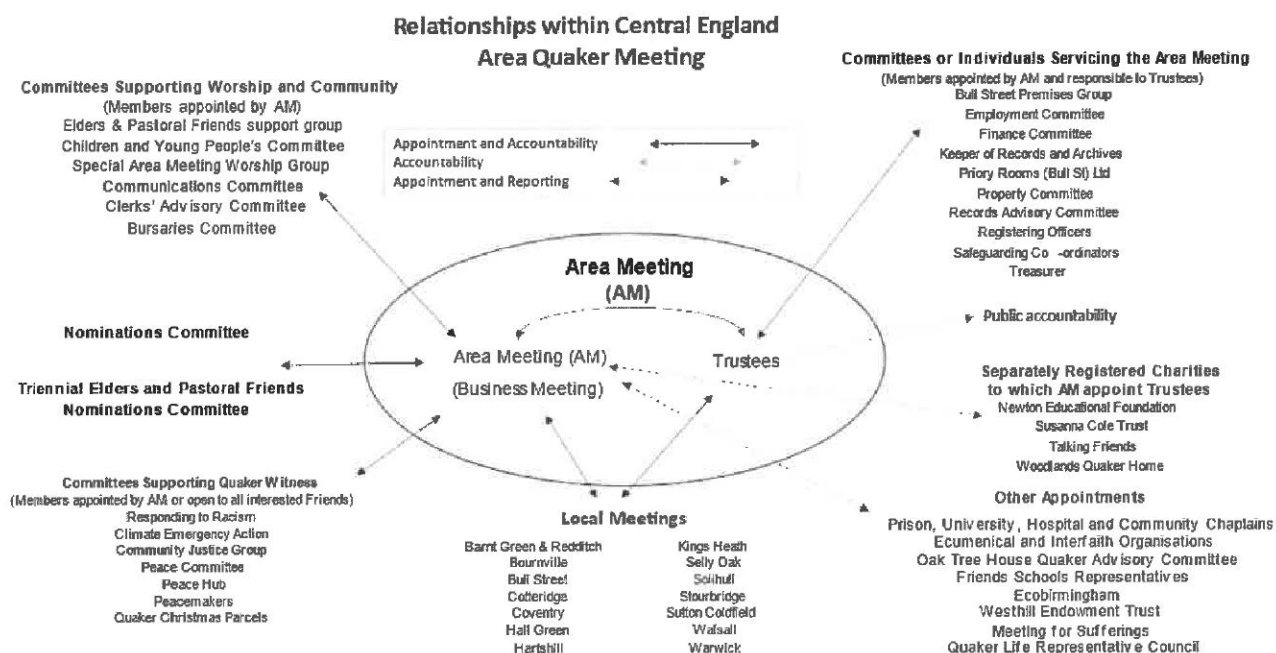
West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers)
Quaker Christmas Parcels
Community Justice Group
Peace Committee
Peace Hub

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022 (continued)

Membership

The total number of members at the end of 2022 was 425 (2021 was 444). At the end of 2022 there were also 213 recorded adult attenders (2021 was 235) and 43 children were recorded at the end of 2022 (2021 was 39).



Trustees are appointed by Area Meeting, on the basis of nominations proposed by the CEQ Nominations Committee. (This process is a key part of the Quaker Business Method, and the CEQ Nominations Committee is responsible for considering all vacancies for voluntary roles, and for recommending “names” to area meeting. These “names” are then appointed or declined at the next area business meeting). In line with Quaker practice, trustees are appointed for a three-year term, which can be extended for a second “triennium” by mutual agreement between the trustee and Area Meeting. On occasions trustees serve a third term.

New trustees receive a detailed induction “briefing” and are given the opportunity to attend a training courses for trustees facilitated by the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

Trustees are responsible for monitoring the performance of the charity and managing its activities. In 2022 there were 11 Trustees and trustees met 4 times. Meetings took the form of joint face to face and online meetings (blended).

In the Quaker tradition, decisions about policies, charitable activities and priorities are taken by the members of the Area Meeting at regular business meetings, and not by the charity’s trustees who provide advice and guidance and take responsibility for the statutory and legal duties of the charity. Area business meetings are open to all members of the Area Meeting and with agreement to interested attenders. Local Meetings appoint representatives to ensure effective representation. All Local Meetings receive minutes of the business meetings and can comment freely on the work of CEQ.

In 2022 there were 9 area meetings for business, including a special away day at Woodbrooke in May to consider ‘What does love require of us?’ – a day of fellowship and to consider our future and next steps as an Area Meeting community.

Trading Subsidiary

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is a wholly owned subsidiary of CEQ. This Quaker owned and managed conference centre is located at Bull Street Friends Meeting House. Directors are appointed by CEQ Area Meeting; there are at least two CEQ trustee Directors and at least four non-trustee Directors. The strategic vision for Priory Rooms is described in a “Purpose and Principles” document, and the relationship between the company and CEQ trustees is set out in a detailed Management Agreement. Both of these documents were reviewed and revised in 2019.

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022 (continued)

C Objectives and Activities

Quaker faith is rooted in the belief of living our lives according to our spiritual experience. This is the basis of Quaker testimonies to peace, truth, simplicity, equality and sustainability, which guide Quaker behaviour, work and witness.

The object of Central England 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 Central England Area and beyond.

This includes:

- i. Strengthening the life and witness of Quaker meetings both in the area of Central England Area Meeting and beyond;
- ii. Spreading the message of Quakers and interpreting and developing the thought and practice of the Religious Society;
- iii. Undertaking Quaker service for the relief of suffering at home and abroad;
- iv. Funding the concerns that Quaker meetings in the area of Central England Area Meeting or beyond have adopted or agreed to support;
- v. Providing the pastoral care of individual members and Attenders including assistance to those in need and for education;
- vi. Maintaining and developing Quaker Meeting Houses as places for public worship and from which to carry out our witness to the world;
- vii. Administering and maintaining the organisation of Central England Area Meeting and contributing to the support of Britain Yearly Meeting.

All 14 LMs and 5 Branches have contributed to the furtherance of the charity's objectives through:

Worship

In the early part of the year Meeting Houses opened up again for face to face worship, with many meetings also retaining the use of zoom and offering a blended format. Friends have also taken the opportunity to participate in international worship such as joining Friends across Spain for a bi-lingual Meeting for Worship on Global Quaker Day.

Weekly worship in the Local Meetings has been enhanced by Friends coming together for additional activities such as Bible studies, workshops, spiritual journey groups and Quaker Quest. Friends also shared in the reading of Advices and Queries or heard from local Friends who shared their spiritual journey stories and enjoyed performances by Journeymen Theatre.

4 LMs also have a regular children's meeting.

Community

Following the pandemic Friends have been able to once again enjoy the social support network offered by the Society and partake in shared lunches, coffee and chat sessions, visits to National Trust properties, craft and chat group and sleepovers on canal boats.

Pastoral support for members and attenders has continued throughout the year, including exploring ways to include everyone both young and old, such as holding Sunday meetings in the retirement home of a Friend or celebrating significant birthdays with a shared Sunday lunch. There have also been Friends who have passed away during the year and will be sadly missed but who have been fondly remembered through memorial meetings.

Local Meetings have engaged with their wider community in a number of ways including: film showings, coffee mornings, warm spaces, and participating in events such as Heritage Day, Music and Dance Festivals and Christmas Festivals.

Concerns

Charitable outreach has been approached in wide and varied ways. Centrally the Area Meeting has supported its own projects which include Peacemakers, Peace Hub and Quaker Christmas Parcels (QCP).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022 (continued)

Quaker Christmas Parcels

This year was the 60th anniversary of the start of QCP.

- ✓ 870 Christmas parcels were packed for delivery this year;
- ✓ 530 were delivered by Probation Services across the West Midlands
- ✓ 340 parcels were collected by other charities working with refugees, asylum seekers and the homeless.

This scheme is unique to CEQ. The committee believes this is an essential act of outreach, showing those most in need that they are cared about, and supporting those working in these sectors who rarely get recognised for their challenging role in society.

Peacemakers

Peacemakers produce a separate annual report, however in 2022 they:

- ✓ Delivered courses and programmes to 1553 children/young people and adults.
- ✓ Worked with 995 children.
- ✓ Worked with 558 adults.
- ✓ Delivered programmes to 46 schools/organisations.
- ✓ Trained 434 children to become peer mediators.
- ✓ Delivered 6 Peer Mediation programmes and 11 new Peer Mediation Plus programmes.
- ✓ Trained 83 children to become Peace Explorers and 46 children to become Peacebuilders.
- ✓ Worked with the Peace Hub to deliver 9 Junior Peacemakers workshops to 373 children.

Peacemakers has received a three-year grant to promote and increase the uptake of peace education in the UK for 7-11 year olds. This exciting project will be a key focus for new work in 2023.

Peace Hub

In 2022 the Peace Hub welcomed back regular supporters and walk-in visitors. The friendly café-style layout in the Hub, enabled fruitful discussions on complex topics, connecting with people's concerns. The Hub tapped into the buzz around the Commonwealth Games to create a space that allowed different opinions to be heard and shared values to be found.

Three peace & social justice themes were promoted in 2022:

- ✓ **Live, Love, Learn** – peaceful and sustainable education;
- ✓ **Sharing Common Wealth?** –exploring issues of peace and justice in the Commonwealth;
- ✓ **Safe & Sound** – based on the five Rethinking Security principles: invest in peace; meet people's basic needs; protect human rights; promote climate justice; improve social equality.

CEQ is involved in several ecumenical and interfaith activities and has given grants to projects such as Footsteps which brings together people of faith to share ideas and taken action on climate change and the environment. Several CEQ members are also chaplains, offering services in prisons, hospitals and local universities.

Meetings and Branches also support local and international charities such as food and clothing banks, international peace and climate change work, assisting asylum seekers, refugees and rough sleepers or by promoting the work being undertaken by CEQ members such as the Peace Committee.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (continued)

D Performance and monitoring

Trustees manage the performance of the charity through service committees which oversee finance, property, employment, safeguarding and records management.

Liaison with and support for the LMs and Branches is provided by a 'Link Trustee' who reports on key issues via a report to the trustees meeting. Property Committee also appoint Property Link Friends who link with the LMs on property issues such as insurance claims or larger, more costly projects.

Following the appointment of the Principal Officer, who took up post in June 2022, a Scheme of Delegation was developed to help clarify roles and responsibilities. The PO role will support the work of the trustees and their committees and seek to undertake some of the practical work previously carried out by volunteers, releasing members to focus on the spiritual elements of the charity.

The PO also provides a report for each of the service committees' and trustees' meetings, highlighting key activities, risks and decisions which need to be considered.

The Risk Register was updated during the year and is now a standing agenda item at trustee meetings.

Safeguarding

The safeguarding team comprises 2 trustees (the Safeguarding Coordinator and deputy Safeguarding Coordinator) and a member appointed by the AM. The group also now includes the Principal Officer. During 2022 the Friend nominated by AM was released from this role, leaving 3 members of the team. Each LM also has its own Safeguarding Lead.

Introduction sessions to the new Safeguarding Policy and Procedure were delivered by the Safeguarding Team during the year and a safeguarding audit was undertaken and annual report prepared which was shared with trustees at the end of the year. The full procedure and toolkit is available via the CEQ website.

E Financial Review

Grants Policy

The Area Meeting is not a grant-making charity and the items referred to as 'grants' mostly consist of the gifts (from central funds and Local Meetings) to the charity's parent body, Britain Yearly Meeting, contributions to other Quaker work, donations to non-Quaker charities (mainly by Local Meetings acting under concern) and subscriptions to ecumenical bodies of which CEQ is a member. In 2022 the following donations were made from charitable funds to external beneficiaries (£): -

<u>Beneficiaries</u>	<u>£</u>	
Overseas beneficiaries	0	
Non-CEQ Quaker charities	32,195	*
Britain Yearly Meeting	38,330	
Non-Quaker charities	25,839	
Non-charities	4,715	
TOTAL	101,079	

* includes a £23,625 donation to ecobirmingham (formerly a CEQ Branch but from July 2018 an independent CIO supported by CEQ).

The funds used for these purposes derive from members' donations and investment income and not from the general public. All of the donations (as listed above) were approved at a formal business meeting, and recorded by Minute.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022 (continued)

Reserves policy and performance

The reserves policy for the Area Meeting's central funds was first approved by trustees in April 2009. It is regularly reviewed and was further revised in 2022. A copy can be found on the CEQ website.

The purpose of the policy is to:

- a) to ensure that the charity has adequate funds to undertake its charitable activities and protect itself from fluctuations in income or expenditure and
- b) to reassure CEQ members and the public that it is using its income for charitable work, and not accumulating excessive reserves.

All the funds were within approximately £10-15,000 of the target values on 31st December 2022.

These being:

- General Fund: bank balance £30,000
- Trustee Fund: bank balance £60,000
- Trustee Building Fund: bank balance £60,000

Most LMs and Branches carry some reserves to cover their day to day needs and guidance has been issued by the finance committee with regards to this, including encouraging them to develop individual reserves policies.

Investment Properties

In addition to the Meeting Houses which are used by LMs the charity also has a number of other properties and land which are used for regular lettings or leased on a longer term basis to bring in additional revenue to support the charity's objectives. These are managed centrally by the trustees and Principal Officer.

Priory Rooms Ltd (trading subsidiary)

Although 2022 started to see a return to pre-pandemic business levels for Priory Rooms they were affected by transport strikes which impacted on their business. They also had to build up their reserves again, meaning they were unable to make any donations to CEQ. The Service Agreement between the Charity and Priory Rooms, previously started in 2020, continued in 2022 and included the provision of services to support 4 centrally managed Meeting Houses.

Overall financial results for the year

2022 has been a good year for Central England Quakers with the majority of our Meetings settling back to regular worship and activities after the difficulties of the covid pandemic. Income is fairly evenly split between donations, rentals and income-generating activities and the overall level has risen to £766k (2021 £726k). As we look to the future, we are grateful to all those who support our Meetings and our project work. Our expenditure has risen to £987k (2021 £821k) mainly due to increased utility costs and governance costs as we increase our activity and reorganise our operational management. We therefore report a deficit of £220k this year compared with £94k in the previous year. Unfortunately the market value of our investments also fell and we report an overall loss of £530k for the year. We anticipate that we can improve this situation in the following years as we focus on our key priorities and more efficient management of resources. Our balance sheet remains strong despite the fall in equity values.

A more detailed breakdown of the charity accounts is included in the accompanying Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) and notes, however the overall financial picture remains positive, particularly given the challenges of the pandemic, strikes, significant increase in utility costs and substantial expenditure on property repairs and maintenance. Overall, the charity is in a sound position as it goes into 2023.

F Going Concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern, the evidence for which is as follows:

The key funds held by the charity are overall above target levels, as defined in the Reserves Policy. Principal sources of income are the rents from investment properties, donations from members and the hire of rooms. The rent income is underpinned by the length and stability of the leases, and donations from members have been stable for many years, with no known risk of any significant reduction. The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the charity's finances which continued into 2022, but there are sufficient reserves to support the charity through this period. The risks faced by the charity are well understood, with extensive mitigation measures in place. Specific financial risks are incorporated in the reserves policy. With the exception of one of its Branches, the charity is not dependent on external funding or fundraising for its income, and the relatively small scale of the activities limits the risks associated with this Branch. Property (repair and maintenance) risks are mitigated by the regular (quinquennial) building surveys undertaken, and by the comprehensive insurance cover that is in place. Major unforeseen expenditure on property is protected by the substantial (c. £500,000) central Building Fund held in reserve.

G Public Benefit Statement

The trustees consider they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The charity makes available and provides the following to further its purposes for the public benefit:

- ✓ Regular holding of public Meetings for Worship.
- ✓ Provision of information about the Quaker way to "seekers", through courses, discussion, study groups and literature.
- ✓ Meeting Houses which are used by many different groups and are of value to the local community.
- ✓ Support for a Dance School, which leases Redditch Meeting House, and provides tuition for young people.
- ✓ Support for ecobirmingham, an environmental charity which leases property in Northfield.
- ✓ Information on energy-saving and lifestyle improvements through CEQ Climate Emergency Action Group.
- ✓ Training in mediation skills in schools and anti-bullying strategies, provided online by the West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers).
- ✓ Gifts of food for families in need, through the Quaker Christmas Parcels project and involvement with foodbanks in local areas.
- ✓ Housing and care for elderly people, in partnership with other Quaker charities.
- ✓ Funding for overseas work and for witness in UK.

Trustees consider that the following in particular benefit from the charity's activities:

- ✓ Members of the public
- ✓ All who are interested in the Religious Society of Friends, its worship, values, testimonies, business methods, projects and concerns.
- ✓ Members of CEQ, who are encouraged to participate actively in the work of the charity and its decision making. Quakers have no paid clergy, and volunteers who are given training as required, and acquire knowledge and skills, carry out much of the work.
- ✓ "Attendees" at Meetings for Worship, who are permitted to take an active part in many Quaker roles, and who may benefit as above.
- ✓ Local communities, which benefit from the use of Quaker Meeting Houses.
- ✓ Local councils, which may benefit from the use of Meeting Houses as polling stations and councillors' surgeries.
- ✓ Prisoners supported by Quaker prison chaplains, and Quakers involved in the criminal justice system.
- ✓ Asylum seekers, who are supported by various projects and through the work done on their behalf.
- ✓ Mental health patients in the Birmingham area, who benefit from the work of Quaker chaplains.
- ✓ Older people, through the provision of residential care.
- ✓ People interested in developing a more sustainable, low carbon lifestyle, through the Eco Church scheme and the services of ecobirmingham.

H Future Plans

- The Area Meeting has appointed a Special Working Group to take forward the development of a vision for the charity. This will help Trustees to prioritise resources and funding.
- Facilitate opportunities for all age worship and social events.
- Further safeguarding training will be facilitated in 2023 and delivered to those undertaking paid and voluntary roles across the charity.
- Review and manage the impact of energy costs on our buildings and meeting houses, including supporting lettings for the centrally managed meeting houses with a new Lettings Advisory Group.
- Develop and roll out a digital contribution scheme to support quicker and easier member donations.
- Explore opportunities to grow the Peace Hub, including piloting new ways of working with volunteers and developing new projects with the Peacemakers such as the Peace Ambassadors.
- Promote and increase the uptake of peace education in the UK for 7-11 year olds.

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Governing Document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of information to the auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow trustees and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 1st August 2023 and signed on behalf of the trustees by;

Gillian Smith)
) trustees
Robert Morris)




The financial statements were submitted to the Charity Commission on 6 September 2023 and to the BYM Recording Clerk's Office on 6 September 2023.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities and group for the year ended 31 December 2022 which comprise of the charity and group statement of financial activities, the charity and group statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charity's affairs as at 31 December 2022 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's or the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- certain disclosures of Trustee remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- returns adequate for our audit have not been received from Branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. We have audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business. We have also made enquiries of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

P Miller - Hawkes

Philippa Miller-Hawkes BA CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
BSN Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2JG

1 August 2023

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	90,643	149,922	240,565	185,851
Charitable activities	177,351	47,433	224,784	222,727
Investment Income	280,166	11,640	291,806	274,511
Other Income	5,372	4,034	9,406	43,582
Total income	553,532	213,029	766,561	726,671
Expenditure				
Cost of raising funds	(10,225)	(6,402)	(16,627)	(11,371)
Charitable activities	(730,797)	(239,715)	(970,512)	(801,160)
Total expenditure	(741,022)	(246,117)	(987,139)	(821,531)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	(182,049)	(128,148)	(310,197)	452,529
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers	(369,539)	(161,236)	(530,775)	357,670
Transfers between funds	(41,640)	41,640	-	-
Net movement in funds	(411,179)	(119,596)	(530,775)	357,670
Total funds brought forward	8,045,847	1,091,665	9,137,512	8,779,841
Total funds carried forward	7,634,668	972,069	8,606,737	9,137,512

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		90,643	149,922	240,565	185,851
Charitable activities		177,351	47,433	224,784	222,727
Other trading activities		515,915	-	515,915	110,094
Investment Income		280,166	11,640	291,806	274,766
Other Income		9,372	4,034	13,406	126,212
Total income	4	1,073,447	213,029	1,286,476	919,650
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(490,644)	(6,402)	(497,046)	(353,193)
Charitable activities	6	(691,440)	(239,715)	(931,155)	(772,263)
Total expenditure		(1,182,084)	(246,117)	(1,428,201)	(1,125,456)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	(182,049)	(128,148)	(310,197)	453,309
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(290,686)	(161,236)	(451,922)	247,504
Transfers between funds	7	(41,640)	41,640	-	-
Net movement in funds		(332,326)	(119,596)	(451,922)	247,504
Total funds brought forward		8,172,269	1,091,665	9,263,934	9,016,428
Total funds carried forward		7,839,943	972,069	8,812,012	9,263,934

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY AND CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2022

	Note	Charity 2022	Charity 2021	Group 2022	Group 2021
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	1,402,865	1,500,591	1,414,801	1,522,062
Investments	12	6,468,209	6,825,885	6,468,209	6,825,885
Total fixed assets		7,871,074	8,326,476	7,883,010	8,347,947
Current assets					
Debtors	13	23,890	21,917	143,550	58,379
Cash at bank and in hand		749,920	820,437	884,356	915,227
Total current assets		773,810	842,354	1,027,906	973,606
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within 1 year	14	(38,147)	(31,319)	(105,696)	(82,745)
Net current assets		735,663	811,035	922,210	890,861
Total assets less current liabilities		8,606,737	9,137,512	8,805,220	9,238,808
Creditors falling due after 1 year	14	-	-	-	-
Provisions	16	-	-	(6,793)	(25,125)
Net assets	19	8,606,737	9,137,512	8,812,013	9,263,934
Unrestricted		6,204,538	6,215,658	6,409,814	6,342,079
Restricted	17	972,069	1,091,665	972,069	1,091,665
Designated	18	1,430,130	1,830,189	1,430,130	1,830,189
Total funds		8,606,737	9,137,512	8,812,013	9,263,934

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 1st August 2023 and signed on their behalf by:

Gillian Smith)

Robert Morris)

Trustees

Gillian M. Smith

R F Morris

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

	2022	2021
	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Net movement in funds	(451,921)	247,504
Depreciation Charge	112,379	101,079
Dividends and interest	(291,806)	(274,766)
Losses/(gains) on investments	310,197	(437,882)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(85,171)	(2,562)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and provisions	41,284	(30,170)
Net cash used in operating activities	(365,038)	(396,797)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest received	291,806	274,766
Purchase of fixed assets	(5,118)	(565)
Net sale/(purchase) of investments	47,479	74,985
Net cash provided by investing activities	334,167	349,186
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of borrowing	-	-
Management of liquid resources		
Movement in short term deposits	(19,603)	20,905
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	(50,474)	(26,705)
Increase/(decrease) in short term deposits	19,603	(20,905)
Cash at bank and in hand	802,719	829,424
Short term deposits	112,508	133,413
Net funds brought forward	915,227	962,837
Cash at bank and in hand	752,245	802,719
Short term deposits	132,111	112,508
Net funds carried forward	884,356	915,227

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

1. General information

The charity is a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the area meeting office is: 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements incorporate the affairs of Central England Area Quaker Meeting and the Local Meetings and other Branches set out in note 20 to the financial statements. Transfers between the Local Meetings, the Branches and the Area Meeting are eliminated from income and expenditure. The financial statements also exclude those donations received by the Area Meeting and Local Meetings, which are paid over to various charities at the donors' requests.

The financial statements also incorporate, where applicable and where amounts are described as 'group', the affairs of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary.

The subsidiary, which is a limited company and not a charity has been consolidated on a line by line basis. Intergroup balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Central England Quakers (CEQ) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The Trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, as set out in their report.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate the availability of funds they are categorised according to the following definitions:

- Unrestricted general funds are available for any purpose of the Charity.
- Designated funds represent amounts set aside for specific purposes but which remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting; and
- Restricted funds represent contributions, legacies and donations received earmarked by the testator or donor for specific purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised as above except where the income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, when the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the charity has been notified of the amount and settlement date.

Investment income is recognised when receivable and is shown gross to include income tax recovered and recoverable. Other income is accounted for on the basis of amounts receivable for the year.

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many members, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of members is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services or facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on using the accruals basis, inclusive of any value added tax that cannot be recovered.

Taxation

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is chargeable to corporation tax on its income and capital gains. Otherwise Central England Area Quaker Meeting is a charity and is exempt from taxation on income derived from its charitable activities. Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited provides for taxation deferred as a result of timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Tangible fixed assets

The charity owns a number of functional properties comprising Meeting Houses, wardens' accommodation and their contents, and other buildings used by CEQ Branches. These buildings are held in perpetuity for Meetings for Worship or other charitable activities, and contribute to the furtherance of the Central England Quaker's charitable objectives and are considered to be heritage assets under FRS 102. The heritage assets have been grouped together in the following categories:

Meeting Houses, Wardens' Accommodation and other buildings

There is no cost or accumulated depreciation recognised for these heritage assets, as allowable under Section 18 of FRS 102. Whilst it is believed that the market value, both at the time of acquisition and at the balance sheet date, was significantly in excess of £nil deemed cost and net book value, it is not possible to obtain a reliable estimate of the market value at either date. Conventional valuation techniques are not appropriate for the unique and historical nature of the assets. In addition, the Trustees consider it an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain valuations for all 16 properties and not befitting of the objectives of the charity.

Major expenditure on improvements to property at 40 Bull Street incurred during 1999 were capitalised and are being depreciated at 5% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. Expenditure on the conference centre in Bull Street is being depreciated at 2% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. A replacement heating system for 40 Bull Street was installed during 2020 and is being depreciated at 10% per annum on cost from 1 November 2020. This has been included within the Refurbishment of Meeting House asset category in note 11.

Any developments or improvements to the building greater than £10,000 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over the improvement's useful economic life. Maintenance costs are charged to the SOFA in the period they are incurred.

Contents of Meeting Houses

A number of the Meeting Houses contents have also been recognised at £nil cost and £nil accumulated depreciation as it is impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's resources to value the specific items in the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

3. Accounting policies (continued)

The Trustees capitalise individual items of equipment costing £10,000 or more where there is a continuing economic value and a reliable measurement of cost or fair value is available. These assets are depreciated annually so as to write off the cost over their economic useful lives. In the subsidiary company equipment is capitalised where the asset has a continuing economic value.

Other fixed assets, which have been capitalised, are being depreciated at the following annual rates on cost:

Furniture and fittings	-	at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	-	25% on cost
Heating and hot water system	-	10 years
Refurbishment of Meeting house	-	20 years
Conference Centre etc.	-	50 years

Investments

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange and fair value is equivalent to the market value. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at bid price. The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial interests.

Investment properties are re-valued periodically or when changes in rental income necessitate revaluation. Fair value is generally open market value.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Short term deposits comprise funds held in savings or deposit (rather than current) accounts which are surplus to immediate cash flow requirements and are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Pension costs

The charity and its subsidiary contribute to defined contribution schemes for some of their employees. The pension cost represents the total amount payable to the schemes in the year. The pension cost is directly charged to funds with contributory employees.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

4. Income

The comparative amounts for 2021 between consolidated funds are:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021
Donations and legacies	98,774	87,077	185,851
Charitable activities	192,444	30,283	222,727
Other trading activities	110,094	-	110,094
Investment Income	264,389	10,377	274,766
Other Income	120,628	5,584	126,212
Total income	786,329	133,322	919,650

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

5. Costs of raising funds (Group)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	£
Priory Rooms (Bull St) Limited:				
Meeting & conference facilities	462,085	-	462,085	366,490
Corporation Tax	18,334	-	18,334	(24,668)
Commercial lettings:				
Letting fees	4,917	-	4,917	4,964
Other	5,308	6,402	11,710	6,407
	490,644	6,402	497,046	353,193
2021	350,068	3,428	353,193	

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (Group)

Support, governance and other costs are directly incurred by the various funds, there is no apportionment required centrally and there are no central function costs.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2022 Total	2021 Total
	£	£	£	
Payroll costs	67,945	133,024	200,969	190,669
Repairs and maintenance	204,291	11,985	216,276	140,248
Costs of Quaker activities	130,728	45,221	175,949	181,223
Depreciation	112,379	-	112,379	101,079
Other employee costs	54,132	28,681	82,813	72,857
Utilities	52,795	9,745	62,540	29,429
Insurance	25,147	2,251	27,398	28,489
Costs of governance	36,983	10	36,993	18,260
Other costs	7,040	8,798	15,838	10,010
	691,440	239,715	931,155	772,263
2021	576,394	195,869	772,263	

Included within the expenditure on activities are amounts paid to defined contribution pension plans for employees of £20,019 (2021: £21,037).

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (continued)

Costs of governance includes the auditors' remuneration of £10,031 (2021: £10,362) for auditing and accounting fees which is incurred by the central funds and is not apportioned to individual Branches. The amount also includes irrecoverable value added tax.

7. Restricted Transfers

The transfers into the restricted fund were grants from the Trustees General fund into the Peacemakers for £30,400 and the Peace Hub £3,000 as well as donations raised from local meetings to support the ongoing work of these branches.

8. Staff details and analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity does not employ a chief executive and the Trustees previously considered the key management personnel to be the Trustees. However during 2022 the Trustees appointed a Principal Officer to undertake much of the day to day management on their behalf.

The Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year (2021: £Nil). No Trustees received reimbursement of travelling expenses in 2022 (2021: £Nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2021: £Nil).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2021: £Nil). Pension costs are incurred directly by the cost centre where staff are employed and allocated to the various funds accordingly.

There are 7 statutory directors of the subsidiary (2021: 8) who receive no remuneration or benefits.

The average number of employees during the year analysed by function was:

	2022	2021
Conference facilities	11	13
Other Branches and projects	5	5
Wardens, caretakers and gardeners	5	5
Administration	1	1
	<u>22</u>	<u>24</u>

The total staff costs for the year were:

	2022 £	2021 £
Wages and salaries – conference facilities	211,944	238,629
Wages and salaries – other	182,266	170,686
National insurance	22,144	29,570
Pension costs	20,019	21,037
	<u>436,373</u>	<u>459,922</u>

All conference facilities staff are employed by the subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. These costs are included in costs of raising funds.

9. Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2022 £	2021 £
Unrestricted	(30,020)	224,457
Designated	(152,029)	134,693
Restricted	(128,148)	94,159
Total net gains	<u>(310,197)</u>	<u>453,309</u>

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

10. Related party transactions

Included within donations to the charity is an aggregate amount of £10,031 (2021: £8,584) received from the Trustees.

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2022	854,667	2,015,647	248,496	35,683	3,154,493
Additions	-	-	5,118	-	5,118
At 31 December 2022	854,667	2,015,647	253,614	35,683	3,159,611
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2022	650,255	719,468	228,807	33,901	1,632,431
Charge for year	57,413	40,313	13,787	866	112,379
At 31 December 2022	707,668	759,781	242,594	34,767	1,744,810
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2022	146,999	1,255,866	11,020	916	1,414,801
At 31 December 2021	204,412	1,296,179	19,689	1,782	1,522,062
Charity					
	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2022	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2022	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2022	650,255	719,468	10,262	-	1,379,985
Charge for year	57,413	40,313	-	-	97,726
At 31 December 2022	707,669	759,781	10,262	-	1,477,711
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2022	146,999	1,255,866	-	-	1,402,865
At 31 December 2021	204,412	1,296,179	-	-	1,500,591

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

11. **Tangible fixed assets (continued)**

All Group tangible assets are classified as unrestricted funds as they are held as part of the Trustees Fund where all assets are used for whatever is deemed appropriate to further the charity's objectives.

Conference Centre

The centre consists of a conference suite and ground level refreshment area for the use of the charity and other Quaker and charitable bodies together with significant commercial use. The operation of the centre is managed by the charity's subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. The conference centre is being depreciated at 2% per annum from 1 January 2004.

Heritage assets

As described in the accounting policies note, there is a cost and accumulated depreciation of £nil for the Meeting Houses and wardens' accommodation owned and used by the charity and group for Worship and charity activities. The buildings are maintained by the charity for their contribution to knowledge and culture of the Quaker faith. It would be impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain market valuations for such unique assets and their contents. A description is given of each of the assets below and the year in which the Meeting Houses were constructed. On the basis of the age of the properties, had the original cost been capitalised, the Trustees are of the view that the assets would be fully depreciated at the balance sheet date. No reliable information exists to include original cost and accumulated depreciation amounts.

The charity is the beneficial owner of the following heritage asset properties:

Type of property	Year	Address
Freehold		
Meeting House	1969	6 Sandhills Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NR
Meeting House and wardens' bungalow	1964	23 Watford Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1JB
Meeting House	1930	Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB
Meeting House and Conference Centre	1931	40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF
CEQ Peace Hub	1931	41 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
Meeting House	1953	Hill Street, Coventry, CV1 4AN
Meeting House	1892	George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1JP
Meeting House	1927	Hamlet Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9BG
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1972	112 Castle Road, Hartshill, CV10 0SG
Meeting House	1983	17 Colmore Row, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7PE
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1695	39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
Meeting House	1939	Kenelm Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6HD
Woodlands Quaker Home	1945	434 Penn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4DH
Long leasehold		
Meeting House	1689	Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR
Meeting House	1905	65 Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT
Short leasehold		
Meeting House	1926	930 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NP

The heritage asset contents of the above properties for which there is no recorded cost are classified into the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents. The Trustees preserve these assets by keeping a register of assets held at each Branch and insuring the assets appropriately to protect them from damage or loss.

The titles to all of the properties owned by the charity and group are held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee with strict restrictions on disposition of the freehold which requires authorisation by an order of the court.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

12. Fixed asset investments

Group investments:

	2022		2021	
	Freehold properties	Listed securities	Freehold properties	Listed securities
	£	£	£	£
Market value brought forward	4,465,650	2,360,235	4,270,650	2,192,338
Net additions/(sales)	-	(47,479)	195,000	(269,985)
Revaluation	-	(310,197)	-	437,882
Total Group investments	4,465,650	2,002,559	4,465,650	2,360,235

Group fixed asset investments are held between funds as follows:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Unrestricted	4,682,685	4,712,702
Restricted	742,447	869,979
Designated	1,043,077	1,243,204
Total Group investments	6,468,209	6,825,885

Charity investments:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Market value		
Freehold properties	4,465,650	4,465,650
Listed securities	2,002,559	2,360,235
Total Charity investments	6,468,209	6,825,885

Freehold Properties

The charity and group own the following freehold investment properties held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee:

Two bungalows adjacent to Barnt Green Meeting House at 6a & 6b Sandhills Road, Barnt Green. The 6a property was valued on an open market basis at £180,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The 6b property, formerly a warden's bungalow, was converted to private rented accommodation and reclassified as an investment property in May 2021, and both properties are subject to shorthold tenancies. The 6b property was valued on an open market basis at £195,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 30 March 2022.

The property known as Redditch Meeting House, Matchborough, Redditch, B98 0ER. Following the termination of a lease to Worcester County Council (from 2009 to 2015), the property was let on short lease from 1 November 2015 to Latham School of Dance and from 1 August 2018 to Amelia's Dance Academy. The property was revalued on an open market basis at £67,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Private flat and community cafe at 39 High Street Warwick CV34 4AX. The property was valued on an open market basis at £120,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The property has been let to private tenant(s) since June 2016.

Office accommodation at 51 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. This property was valued on an open market basis at £116,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. It is leased to Oulsnam and a renewed ten year lease from 25 December 2013 was signed in August 2014.

Office accommodation at 53 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. It was valued on an open market basis at £80,500 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. It is leased to ecobirmingham, and a five year lease was signed on 2 July 2018.

A bungalow adjacent to the Meeting House in Selly Oak was formerly warden's accommodation and treated as a functional property but during 2014 it was adapted for commercial letting, and was reclassified as an investment property. The property was valued on an open market basis at £27,150 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

A flat within the Hartshill Meeting House has been converted into private rented accommodation and was reclassified as an investment property for 2019. The flat was valued at £65,000 on an open market basis by Lawrence & Wightman on 31 December 2020.

An office development on land owned by the Area Meeting at 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham. The land is let on a 250 years lease from 29 September 1999 and was valued on an open market basis at £3,615,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

The types of investment held at 31 December 2022 and their market values were:

	2022	2021
	£	£
Listed investments (incl. loan stocks)	211,623	241,644
Investment properties	4,465,650	4,465,650
Social investments	5,409	5,409
Other investments (Unit Trusts, Branch & Trustee Reserves)	1,785,527	2,113,182
Total Group investments	6,468,209	6,825,885

Unlisted investments

The charity owns 100% of the Ordinary share capital of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited (company number: 05129631). There is no investment cost included for the subsidiary in the charity's balance sheet, with all profit is donated back to the parent entity to support with the charitable objectives of Central England Quakers.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Aggregate capital and reserves	205,275	126,422
Profit for the year after taxation	78,853	(110,166)

There has been no donations made by Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited to the parent charity in 2022 or for the 2 years prior to that, due to the performance of the trading subsidiary following various closures in the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

The following is a summary of the profit for the year after taxation in Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited.

	2022	2021
	£	£
Sales of conference facilities	569,925	169,694
Cost of sales	(97,199)	(15,499)
Distribution costs	(3,418)	(284)
Administrative expenses	(376,121)	(372,410)
Other operating income	4,000	82,630
Management charge to parent charity	-	-
Operating profit/(loss)	97,187	(135,869)
Income and realised gains from investments	-	255
Gain on financial assets at fair value	-	780
Profit before taxation	97,187	(134,834)
Provision for deferred taxation (note 17)	(18,334)	24,668
Profit after taxation	78,853	(110,166)

The company paid a dividend of £Nil to the parent charity during the year (2021: £nil).

13. Debtors

	2022	2021
	£	£
Group		
Trade debtors	97,091	19,321
Other debtors	46,459	39,058
	143,550	58,379
Charity		
Trade Debtors	-	-
Other debtors	23,890	21,917
	23,890	21,917

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2022	2021
	£	£
Group		
Trade creditors	6,773	3,993
Social security and other taxes	44,293	27,166
Accruals	36,569	40,829
Other creditors	18,061	10,757
	105,696	82,745
	2022	2021
	£	£
Charity		
Social security and other taxes	12,592	10,679
Accruals	25,555	20,640
	38,147	31,319
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		
	2022	2021
	£	£
Group		
Corporation Tax (in Subsidiary)	-	-
	-	-

15. Secured assets

Freehold land and buildings at Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4DH, have been given as security for loan finance obtained in the Charity's name from Triodos Bank NV and in turn made available to Woodlands Quaker Home in respect of expenditure on new buildings. The amount of loan finance outstanding at 31 December 2022 was £60,707 (2021: £63,832). The loan is not included in these financial statements as the charity does not expect to have to meet any part of the debt. The last relevant market valuation for the secured property was £1,450,000 in May 2019.

Friends Trusts Ltd, as nominee for land, is a party to the leases (excluding tenancy agreements) pertaining to CEQ investment properties, which are 1 Colmore Square, Redditch Meeting House, 51 Church Road, 53 Church Road and the Woodlands.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

16. Provision for liabilities

	2022 £	2021 £
Deferred tax		
Accelerated capital allowances	(6,793)	(25,127)
	Deferred tax	
	£	
Balance at 1 January 2022		(25,127)
Provided during year		18,334
At 31 December 2022		(6,793)

The provision for deferred taxation arises in the charity's subsidiary company. The provision relates to unrestricted funds in 2022 and 2021.

17. Restricted funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	143,905	47,650	(46,517)	(12,230)	937	133,745
Other Branches	176,082	157,097	(195,350)	(3,007)	48,887	183,709
Building Fund	524,000	8,282	(4,250)	(82,142)	(8,184)	437,706
Trustees Reserves	247,678	-	-	(30,769)	-	216,909
Restricted funds	1,091,665	213,029	(246,117)	(128,148)	41,640	972,069

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Other Branches consist of those bodies set up by the Area Meeting for particular purposes and identified in the Trustees Report. The definition of a Branch is a committee or project that has its own bank account.

As described in the Trustees Report, branches of note are West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (known as "Peacemakers") and Peace Hub.

Building Fund Investments (previously classified as designated) comprise of investments held to support the maintenance, repair and improvement of the charity's Meeting Houses. The income from the investments is applied to a designated "Building Fund" bank account from which grants and loans are made to individual Local Meetings.

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. The two Funds which remain restricted are the proceeds of Atherstone Meeting House with income applied to Hartshill Local Meeting and the proceeds of Cotteridge Land Sale with income applied to Cotteridge Local Meeting.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

18. Designated funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	1,090,334	324,014	(365,101)	(95,845)	(9,328)	944,074
Redditch	15,471	3	(14)	-	(15,460)	-
Bull Street	117,666	-	(27,141)	-	(90,525)	-
Building Fund	98,693	60	(95)	-	(28,552)	70,106
Black Country	21,080	6,154	(2,000)	-	(10,045)	15,189
Trustees Reserves	486,945	1,960	-	(56,184)	(31,960)	400,761
Designated funds	1,830,189	332,191	(394,351)	(152,029)	(185,870)	1,430,130

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Redditch Building Fund is held in respect of the Redditch Meeting House. The Meeting House at Redditch is no longer used by the Local Meeting and is leased to a Dance School. The landlord's responsibilities therefore lie with the Trustees and the previous sinking fund is held in a CAF Gold Account entitled 'Redditch Building Fund' to cover those items that are defined in the lease as being the responsibility of the landlord. Part of the fund was used in 2015 to make property 'fit for purpose' for the new tenant.

In 2009 a separate **Bull Street fund** was established to provide for the future refurbishment of the 40 Bull Street property (including Priory Rooms Conference Centre). The fund was used between 2014 and 2016 to support the refurbishment of Bull Street Meeting House (and Priory Rooms) and the conversion of the adjacent 41 Bull Street property for Quaker use as a Peace and Justice Centre (Peace Hub). Since 2016 the Fund has been used for annual repairs, maintenance and improvements to both properties. The principal source of income is transfers from the Trustee Fund. The Bull Street Investments were merged with the Building Fund Investments on 1 January 2019. From 2023 this will be merged with the Trustee Fund as it has no income source and will reduce the number of internal transfers.

The Building Fund receives income from Building Fund Investments (see Restricted Funds) and provides loans or grants to assist Local Meetings to maintain their properties if a major repair is beyond their means and to carry out agreed improvements to premises.

The Black Country Fund is a designated fund established by area meeting in June 2015 to support the development of Quakerism in the Black Country. The fund comprises the residual assets of the former Dudley Local Meeting, which was laid down on 31 December 2015, and receives the dividend income from one of the Trustee Reserve Funds known as "Dudley Meeting Houses" (see below).

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. Previously classified as Restricted, two of the four funds have been reclassified as designated; Dudley Meeting Houses with income applied to the Black Country Fund and Proceeds of Church Road Properties Northfield with income applied to the Northfield Development Committee. A fifth Reserve Fund, Trustee General Reserve, was formerly known as Sellywood House Fund but was re-designated in 2021. In May 2022 £30,000 of the Fund was sold to provide a (budgeted) transfer from reserves.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

19. Analysis of Group assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Fixed Asset Investments	Net Current Assets	Creditors due after one year	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	1,414,801	4,682,684	305,536	6,793	6,409,814
Restricted funds					
Local Meetings	-	92,719	41,027	-	133,746
Other Branches	-	21,200	162,509	-	183,709
Building Fund	-	411,619	26,086	-	437,705
Trustees Reserves	-	216,909	-	-	216,909
Designated funds					
Local Meetings	-	642,318	314,256	-	956,574
Redditch	-	-	-	-	-
Bull Street	-	-	-	-	-
Building Fund	-	-	57,605	-	57,605
Black Country	-	-	15,191	-	15,191
Trustee Reserves	-	400,760	-	-	400,760
	1,414,801	6,468,209	922,210	6,793	8,812,013

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2022

20. Consolidated (Group) Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		98,774	87,077	185,851	290,948
Charitable activities		192,444	30,283	222,727	79,951
Other trading activities		110,094	-	110,094	188,942
Investment Income		264,389	10,377	274,766	274,465
Other Income		120,628	5,584	126,212	189,356
Total income	4	786,329	133,322	919,650	1,023,661
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(350,068)	(3,125)	(353,193)	(412,405)
Charitable activities	6	(576,394)	(195,869)	(772,263)	(1,079,281)
Total expenditure		(926,462)	(198,994)	(1,125,456)	(1,491,686)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	359,150	94,159	453,309	90,796
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		219,016	28,487	247,504	(377,229)
Transfers between funds	7	(40,532)	40,532	-	-
Net movement in funds		178,485	69,020	247,504	(377,229)
Total funds brought forward		7,993,782	1,022,646	9,016,428	9,393,658
Total funds carried forward		8,172,268	1,091,666	9,263,934	9,016,428

21. Capital commitments

There was no future capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements at 31 December 2022 and 31 December 2021.

Addendum – January 2024

Several attempts were made to submit the TARA to the Charity Commission on and around the 6th September (as recorded in the report) and prior to the final deadline of 31st October, however technical issues with the new Charity Commission platform meant that we were prevented from submitting until January 2024.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 224571

Accounts

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

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THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities

Working charity name Central England Quakers (CEQ)

Charity registration number 224571

Area meeting office 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF

The Trustees Anne Austin (released October 2021)
Christine Bagnall
Patricia Bradbury
James Green
Judith Jenner (Clerk)
John Kimberley
Robert Morris
Carole Pannell (appointed September 2021)
Anthony Pegler
Gillian Smith
Jill Stow (to February 2022)
Sue Thompson (to June 2022)
Peter Ullathorne
Fiona Waterhouse (released April 2021)

Auditors BSN Chartered Accountants
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road Oldbury, West Midlands
B69 2JG

Nominee for Land Friends Trusts Limited
173-177 Euston Road, London
NW1 2BJ

Nominee for Investment Rathbone Greenbank Investments
10 Queens Square
Bristol BS1 4NT

Bankers CAF Bank Limited, Kings Hill,
West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ

Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, PO Box 908,
125 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QD

Solicitors Veale Wasbrough Vizards
3 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2JB

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

A Introduction

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary (together "the group") for the year ended 31 December 2021. The report aims to summarise the activities, work and key events for the Area Meeting ("AM") and its Local Meetings ("LMs"). The aim is also to explain the role of the trustees and their relationship with the Area Meeting which is a worshipping community seeking to live, as individuals and as a community, in accordance with Quaker values and testimonies which are deeply held and long-standing.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

B Structure, management and governance

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain is a Christian denomination founded in the seventeenth century.

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain is the final constitutional authority for the Society. Its membership consists of all those who belong to the Area Meetings in Great Britain. Central England Area Quaker Meeting is one of 70 constituent Area Meetings established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes which derive from and bear witness to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends. The principal activity of the Area Meeting is the holding of Meetings for Worship which are open to all who wish to attend in its Local Meetings, together with the other Branches and related projects which support the charity's objects in an area roughly bounded by Walsall, Warwick and Stourbridge and includes the Birmingham and Coventry conurbations. There is an office and paid secretary in Bull Street Meeting House in the centre of Birmingham.

On 16 March 2009 the Charity Commission granted the Area Meeting a new scheme uniting the former registered and excepted parts of the charity, governing the charities identified in the scheme, to be known together as The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities, registered charity number 224571. The charity's working name is Central England Quakers ("CEQ"). There are three constituent charities within the overall scheme (excluding those that have been removed from the register), one of which is the Area Meeting:

Central England Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends	224571-8
Bull Street Meeting House and Burial Ground	224571-3
West Birmingham Friends Halls	224571-6

Quaker faith is rooted in the belief of living our lives according to our spiritual experience. This is the basis of Quaker testimonies to peace, truth, simplicity, equality and sustainability, which guide Quaker behaviour, work and witness. Some of this work and witness is undertaken by the 15 Local Meetings, and some by 7 Branches – projects or committees set up for specific areas of work related to the testimonies. The financial statements incorporate the affairs of the following Local Meetings ("LMs") and Branches:

Local Meetings

Barnt Green and Redditch
Bournville
Bull Street
Cotteridge
Coventry
Edgbaston
Hall Green
Hartshill
Kings Heath
Selly Oak
Solihull
Stourbridge
Sutton Coldfield
Walsall
Warwick

Branches

West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers)
Quaker Christmas Parcels Committee
Community Justice Group
Junior Young Friends
Northfield Development Committee
Peace Committee
Peace Hub

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021 (continued)

The charity's Governing Document defines the way it is organised and managed.

A key part of the way that Quakers conduct their affairs is the "Quaker Business Method" and applies to all Quaker business meetings and has been followed almost unchanged for over 350 years. The meetings begin in silence as we wait for the promptings of the Spirit. The clerk is responsible for the agenda and the conduct of the meeting, and is the servant of the meeting, taking no part in the discussion, but listening to contributions and discerning the sense of the meeting. Quakers do not vote, they discern what is the right decision for the meeting. The decision/agreement is recorded by means of a Minute and Minutes are written and agreed in session after each item. This is quite different to the conduct of secular business meetings, with the chairperson in a leadership role.

Local Meetings and Branches are branches of the charity, under the care of CEQ trustees. They have their own committees, treasurers and bank accounts, and the relationship between the LMs/Branches and trustees is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") which all LMs and Branches are required to sign. The MoU gives delegated authority to the LMs/Branches, subject to agreed policies and procedures. Each LM, Branch and committee within the Area Meeting has a "Link Trustee" to whom they can turn for advice and guidance.

Trustees are appointed by Area Meeting, on the basis of nominations proposed by the CEQ Nominations Committee. (This process is a key part of the Quaker Business Method, and the CEQ Nominations Committee is responsible for considering all vacancies for voluntary roles, and for recommending "names" to area meeting. These "names" are then appointed or declined at the next area business meeting). In line with Quaker practice, trustees are appointed for a three-year term, which can be extended for a second "triennium" by mutual agreement between the trustee and Area Meeting. Only in exceptional circumstances do trustees serve a third term.

New trustees receive a detailed induction "briefing" and are given the opportunity to attend a weekend training course for trustees at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

In the Quaker tradition, decisions about policies, charitable activities and priorities are taken by the members of the Area Meeting at regular business meetings, and not by the charity's trustees who provide advice and guidance and take responsibility for the statutory and legal duties of the charity. Area business meetings are open to all members of the Area Meeting, and Local Meetings appoint representatives to ensure effective representation. All Local Meetings receive minutes of the business meetings and can comment freely on the work of CEQ.

In 2021 Area Meeting met eight times for business. The first three meetings (in January, March and April) were held by video-conferencing, due to the COVID-19 restrictions, but the other five were held in Meeting Houses with the option to join by video-conferencing (known as "blended" meetings). Reports were received from trustees, and from a number of Area Meeting Branches and committees: Peace Hub, Peace committee, Quaker Christmas Parcels, Quaker Climate Emergency Action, Community Justice Group and Safeguarding. A report was given by a "sister charity", the Old People's Fund Trust, and by ecobirmingham, formerly a CEQ Branch, but which became an independent CIO in 2018. Reports were also received from representatives to committees and groups that are part of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Finally, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a professional Quaker owned and managed conference centre located at Bull Street Friends Meeting House, is a wholly owned subsidiary of CEQ. Directors are appointed by CEQ Area Meeting; there are at least two CEQ trustee Directors and at least four non-trustee Directors. The strategic vision for Priory Rooms is described in a "Purpose and Principles" document, and the relationship between the company and CEQ trustees is set out in a detailed Management Agreement. Both of these documents were reviewed and revised in 2019.

Membership

The members of the Area Meeting are those persons whose names are for the time being recorded in the official register maintained in accordance with Quaker Faith and Practice ("QFP") of Britain Yearly Meeting. At 31 December 2021 membership of the Area Meeting comprised 444 members (12 less than 2020). There were 235 recorded adult attenders and 39 recorded children (7 less than 2020).

C Purposes, activities, and performance

The impact of the pandemic

Covid 19 remained with us during 2021 but we were more prepared to manage it than the year before. By the time of the third lockdown Friends were more familiar with government guidelines and staying safe. Virtual meetings became easier for Friends and many were able attend Meetings for Worship as well as business in the comfort of their own homes. Friends often preferred these virtual meetings. However, there was an impact on the Local Meeting communities, Peacemakers and the Peace Hub. Priory Rooms conference centre, our trading subsidiary, was closed for the first 4 months of the year.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

During this second year of the Coronavirus pandemic some Meetings became more fragile and fragmented. Many Friends were cautious of social interaction when lockdowns were lifted, this affected many activities although this report shows that many innovative ways were found to continue to worship and learn together.

Worshipping together

The Meeting for Worship is our core purpose and the centre from which all our activities flow. It has been the custom of Quakers to gather in silence and wait on the spirit regularly. There is the quiet presence of an elder but no leader, each person is responsible for the right holding of the worship. The community is empowered and led by the spirit. When there is a sense of unity those present experience a gathered meeting. For newcomers experiencing this for the first time there is an overwhelming feeling of being surrounded by love. It is impossible to describe, and this mystery is at the heart of our worship. Meeting together has always been an important element of belonging to the Society of Friends. We have continued to meet to worship in one of our 12 Meeting Houses, in a rented room, outside or virtually on Zoom throughout the year. Many challenges had to be overcome. For some it was difficult to find that sense of the gathered meeting when all were not physically in the same room.

2021 began with a third lockdown after a few months of being able to meet for worship, and following the government's guidelines socialising afterwards was very restricted. There were none of the usual chats or sharing over a cup of tea. Friends were now used to virtual meetings and these continued; although able to meet in person many Meetings decided this was too risky. This led to fragmentation and, for some of those without computers, a loss of contact during lockdowns.

Restrictions were lifted in Spring and small groups of Friends returned to worship in the Meeting House. They continued to hold Meetings for Worship in person and on Zoom however this sometimes became intrusive and occasionally disruptive when the equipment broke down.

Nevertheless, there were advantages and some Meetings welcomed Friends in their virtual meetings from other parts of the country and the world. They were able to welcome visitors and renew friendships with those who had moved away.

Some Meetings met in their garden during the spring and early summer. One of the children's meetings met regularly outside, and it was a joy to be surrounded by nature. Returning to Meeting for Worship in these challenging times also gave opportunity for trying to do things differently. Holding Meeting for Worship once a month in the afternoon followed by afternoon tea or inviting someone to share a poem, a piece of music, a story or one of the Advices & Queries at beginning of worship were some of the ways. Another Meeting held an afternoon in person meeting without the intrusion of TV screens, computers, cameras or microphones. It was also possible to hold blended all age Meetings for Worship - although singing was not allowed some of the children played musical instruments and Friends hummed along.

Friends do not only gather to worship on Sundays, nor just in their Meeting Houses. Prison and university chaplains were able to hold Quaker Meetings for Worship in quite different venues for some of those they meet with. During the pandemic there were restrictions on groups meeting together but there were some opportunities. Some Local Meetings regularly hold Meetings for Healing and these were sometimes held virtually. Hopefully more weekday meetings will be possible as restrictions are lifted.

Building community

Quakers who worship together are a community who support each other in many ways. The impact of Covid, government restrictions, and fearfulness led pastoral support teams to find ways to keep in touch and provide necessary care and communication. Friends at one Meeting held a monthly coffee morning where they remembered those in need of support and wrote greetings cards for them. At another Meeting Friends shared their own journey into membership and were able to learn more about each other. Many Meetings have a regular Newsletter which was a way of keeping in touch, sharing planned events as well as news, features, book reviews, games, puzzles, recipes and reports.

Most of these events were virtual and it was possible to continue to arrange bible study, book groups and continue sharing in an Experiment with Light group. A wide range of topics were covered by Friends in Local Meetings including privilege and power, finding spiritual direction, Early Quakers and Nature celebrations. In previous years Meetings have met at Woodbrooke, the Quaker Study Centre but it was closed for business during much of the year. However, they offered 'Woodbrooke Where you Are' sessions both on Zoom and in person when restrictions were lifted. One Meeting enjoyed two sessions during the year, Quaker history in a nutshell and Hope as a spiritual practice. There were also film nights and for the more active, walking groups. Sometimes it was just companionable to sit round a fire pit in the garden and toast marshmallows. As Friends met together in these various ways the life of the community was enriched despite the restrictions.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

Witness in the world

One of Quakerism's strongly held beliefs is that the way we live bears testimony to God's spirit at work in the world. It is this spirit that inspires both Meetings and individuals to act under concern. During 2021 many Meetings did a lot of work on climate justice in the preparation for COP26 hosted in Glasgow by the UK government in November. Delegates from many countries attended the event and some Friends went in person to join the climate protests happening during the 10 days.

During the months leading up to the conference Meetings organised a variety of events to raise awareness of the global impact of climate change and to think about our personal responsibility as well as to question our government's actions/decisions.

One Meeting has a Making a Difference group and used craftivism to send peaceful messages which included making green hearts, a banner for Global Day of Action for Climate Justice, and sending greetings cards to politicians reminding them of the COP26 commitments. One of the children's meetings made yellow canaries to symbolise the need the world has for non-toxic air. One was sent to the local MP and they were pleased that he replied with a handwritten letter. Two Local Meetings hosted pilgrims walking to Glasgow to be there for COP26. The pilgrims met with local groups and shared their concerns about the current climate emergency. One group had a Coat of Hope and Friends were able to contribute messages of hope as it journeyed to Glasgow. Marches were organised and in Birmingham Friends from many Local Meetings joined thousands of people showing their support for COP26 and asking for positive commitments from the world leaders. The Area Meeting Young People's group joined the march as well. Young people also contributed to the Loving Earth Project which was a national event making textile panels showing environmental concerns and what actions are needed. The complete set of panels was taken to COP 26 in November. A selection of them were displayed at the Peace Hub and following a poetry writing workshop young people were able to read their poems on environmental concerns.

There was ongoing support for local asylum seekers to provide food and other essential items, and this often meant working with other charities in the area. Some Meetings have become Sanctuary Meetings, making a commitment to help those seeking refuge. Following the withdrawal of US troops in Afghanistan in August and the change in government there many Afghans fled the country. Some Friends helped at a Clothing Hub in the city when donations were pouring in. As well as practical support most Meetings offer financial support to other charities through their regular special collections.

The annual Quaker Christmas Parcels committee was able to organise the packing and distribution of food parcels in December, and with the help of the Probation service 530 parcels were provided for families of prisoners this year. 325 parcels were also distributed to local groups working with refugees and asylum seekers in Coventry and Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall areas. This project has continued for 58 years and only in 2020 was it not possible to pack the food and vouchers were given instead.

Some Friends are appointed as chaplains and work with ecumenical teams in some of the prisons, universities and hospital in the area. The Community Justice Group is a way of supporting each other in this challenging work to bring a Quaker presence into sometimes quite stressful situations.

Peace

Witnessing for peace is central to Quakers who joined with other churches and faith groups in Coventry and, at the annual Peace Festival, the Meeting House was included in the Peace Walk where a short message of welcome and peace was given. During the Remembrance Day events many Quakers chose to wear a white poppy and in Coventry Friends laid wreath of white poppies to remember all the civilian casualties in the London Road Cemetery.

Building peace is a core element in the work Peacemakers do in schools with both primary and secondary year groups. Work in schools was restricted during the lockdowns but virtual resources were developed. When the schools were open the team were able to offer a programme to support children responding to difficulties brought by Covid restrictions and lockdowns. These activities encouraged working together, building a sense of achievement with time for reflective questioning. Recognising that "peace begins with me" is a crucial message in peace work. The newly developed RESTORE course for schools provided time to stop and reflect – then look for opportunities. A Local Meeting received a legacy and decided to set up the Cotteridge Community Quaker Fund for local community initiatives, building relationships in the local area as part of their witness for peaceful communities.

Some Friends raise awareness of government decisions that have a negative effect both locally and internationally. One Local Meeting held a silent vigil to protest against the police, crime security and courts bill. Another joined with the local interfaith group and had a stall in the town centre to raise awareness of reduction in the UK Aid budget and collected signatures on a petition to reinstate overseas aid commitment.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

Support for international projects is maintained at a distance and includes raising funds from special collections and sometimes in person visits to the projects.

The Peace Hub actively encourages people to find out more and act on some of these issues and during the year included economic equality and climate justice. Each topic is live for 3 months and the Think Global, Act Local, Get Equal topic encouraged people to think about Fairtrade and to campaign for a living wage amongst other things.

Moving into 2022 we are hopeful that a gradual return to pre-Covid times will be possible but it will not be an easy journey as Friends slowly adjust.

D Performance and monitoring

Trustees are responsible for monitoring the performance of the charity and managing its many administrative activities. In January 2021 there were 13 serving trustees. During the year one new trustee was appointed and two released, so there were 12 trustees serving in December. Trustees met four times in 2021, in February, June, September and November and one additional "meeting for worship for discernment" was held in January, to consider strategic priorities.

Oversight of and support for Local Meetings and Branches is provided by "Link Trustees", and reports from Link Trustees are received at each meeting of trustees.

Trustees report regularly to the Area Meeting business meetings, to keep members of the Area Meeting informed and to seek discernment of, and approval to, key policy decisions. In 2021 trustees reported to/consulted Area Meeting on six occasions: -

- January 2021 – Minute from a special meeting of trustees held in January to consider strategic priorities
- March 2021 – a Minute recording the establishment of a trustee "Meeting House Management Group (MHMG)" to manage the finances and property for two Local Meetings and two Meeting Houses used exclusively for lettings.
- June 2021 – Trustees report on work undertaken in 2021
- July 2021 – update from MHMG
- October 2021 – proposals to offer Priory Rooms a loan (agreed)
- November 2021 – written presentation given to Friends on the central funds' forecasts for 2021 and budget proposals for 2022, and approval by Area Meeting of the 2022 budgets.

Much of the trustee work is undertaken by five trustee service committees: -

1. Finance
2. Property
3. Employment
4. Records Advisory
5. Governance & Compliance

The members of the committees 1-4 are appointed by Area Meeting, and need not be trustees, though the terms of reference for each committee specify a minimum number of trustee members. Members of the Governance & Compliance Committee are all trustees and appointed by trustees.

1 Finance

Finance committee consists of a "central treasurer team" each member of which has a designated role, together with a clerk and one member without an assigned role.

The team comprises

- General Fund Treasurer
- Treasurer to Trustees (ex-officio)
- Administration Treasurer
- Investment Treasurer
- Contribution Schedule Treasurer
- Local Meeting Support
- Finance Administrator (ex-officio)

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

The clerk to Finance committee fulfils the role of Area Meeting Treasurer (an appointment required by the CEQ Governing Document).

Accounts and budgets

Management Accounts (receipts and payments) for 8 centrally-managed funds are issued quarterly and monitored by Finance Committee. For the first three quarters actual figures are compared with the budget for the year, but at the end of the third quarter a forecast is published for the fourth quarter (and full year), and over the final quarter actuals are compared with forecast.

For the 2020 CEQ Report and Accounts, all Local Meetings and Branches submitted their examined accounts by the 31 March 2021 deadline (for the sixth year running). The external audit of the accounts was undertaken, with a satisfactory outcome. The 2020 CEQ Report and Accounts were approved by trustees (and submitted to the Charity Commission) in September 2021.

In November 2021 the Annual Briefing for treasurers and examiners was held as a blended meeting (i.e. some attending in person and others by video-conferencing), and all Local Meetings and Branches were represented. This annual briefing advises local treasurers of any changes to policies or procedures, and any changes to reporting requirements for the forthcoming year-end.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

The pandemic continued to impact CEQ finances in two ways: -

- a) Local Meeting Funds: Due to the closure of Meeting Houses during lockdown, and ongoing restrictions on the use of the buildings, the letting of rooms to local groups continued to be impacted during 2021. However, the loss of income in the previous year (2020) was partially recovered through a successful insurance claim, generating a refund in 2021 of £108,000.
- b) Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Ltd: The Priory Rooms Conference Centre lockdown continued until April, with a significant impact on sales revenue, and business was slow to pick up. The trading loss for 2021 was just over £130,000. This had a major impact on the CEQ charity's finances in 2021, as the annual gift to the charity from Priory Rooms in 2021 was nil (compared with £120,000 in 2020).

Service agreement between the charity and Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Ltd

Towards the end of 2020 the Priory Rooms company was faced with making staff redundant, and CEQ trustees decided to postpone the appointment of a Principal Officer and to ask Priory Rooms staff to undertake some of the Principal Officer tasks (notably those relating to finance and property). A service agreement was drawn up, and took effect on 1 November 2020. CEQ agreed to pay £10,000 per quarter for these services, and this was increased to £13,000 in October 2021 when the Area Meeting Secretary retired, and the service agreement was extended to cover the work of the CEQ office. This arrangement was mutually beneficial, and has enabled Priory Rooms to retain key staff in anticipation of a return to normal trading. The service agreement has been extended to continue into 2022.

Investment Policy and performance

CEQ has three categories of investments (excluding investment properties, described in Note 12 to the Accounts):

- *Central investment portfolios* – these comprise the Building Fund and General Fund investments. During 2021 these centrally-held investments increased in value by 11%
- *Trustee Reserve Funds* - five separate funds, four of which have arisen from the historical proceeds of sale of land or properties (described in Notes 17 and 18 to the accounts) are invested in CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund (income units). This fund is managed by CCLA and monitored by the Finance Committee. During 2021 the CCLA fund unit price increased by 13.5%, and the combined value of the four Reserve Funds at 31 December 2021 was £562,664. The fifth Reserve Fund is the Trustee General Reserve (formerly known as the Sellywood House Fund but re-designated in 2021), which is invested in CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund (accumulation units) which is described in Note 18 to the Accounts. During the year, as anticipated in the 2021 budget, £50,000 of this General Reserve Fund was sold, to support expenditure and to maintain central funds above the minimum values specified in the CEQ Reserves Policy. The value of the Fund at 31 December 2021 was £171,960.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

- *Local Meeting and Branch Investments* - some (but not all) Local Meetings and Branches hold investments which form part of their individual reserves. These funds are managed by the LMs/Branches themselves. In many cases the investments are in professionally managed unit trusts, but in the case of independently managed portfolios, investment decisions are generally based on professional advice, via a nominated broker. Encouragement has been given to Local Meetings to invest "spare cash" in the CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund, recognising that money held in bank accounts earns little or no interest and with rising inflation the value of the funds may erode.

Reserves policy and performance

The reserves policy for the Area Meeting's central funds, was first approved by trustees in April 2009. It is regularly reviewed and was further revised in 2021. The aim of the policy is twofold:

- to ensure that the charity has adequate funds to undertake its charitable activities and protect itself from fluctuations in income or expenditure; and
- to reassure CEQ members and the public that it is using its income for charitable work, and not accumulating excessive reserves.

The policy sets limits for funds held as investments and cash held in bank accounts, taking due account of cash flow fluctuations, income generation from capital, and protection from potential financial risks. It is used as the basis of all budgeting and spending reviews and makes an important contribution to the good governance of the charity.

Most Local Meetings and Branches carry some reserves of their own to cover day-to-day needs, and for property maintenance, also to protect the remuneration of employees where appropriate. In November 2015 guidelines were issued by Finance committee to Local Meetings and Branches to enable them to develop their own policies, and all Local Meetings and Branches are encouraged to develop individual reserves policies, using these guidelines.

Specific reserves policies for each central fund (see further details in Notes 17 and 18 for the performance of restricted and designated funds) are as follows:

- *General and Trustee Funds (Unrestricted)* - These central funds are used to manage the overall charity's objectives and encompass a number of individual funds and purposes. The reserves policy for these funds is summarised in a table overleaf.
- *Local Meetings and Branches (Restricted and Designated)* – All Local Meetings and Branches should cover their own financial risks as per the charity's Memorandum of Understanding.
- *Building Fund investments (Restricted)* – Income from the investments is needed to cover annual grants to Local Meetings to avoid using capital. Average grants are assumed as c. £12,000 per annum with an assumed investment yield of 2.5%. Therefore, target value is £480,000 minimum (value at 31 December 2021: £503,144 including £40,000 set aside for the future upkeep of Kings Heath Meeting House).
- *Building Fund bank account (designated)* is used to support everyday grants and cash flow loans to Local Meetings to cover their building repairs and maintenance. A minimum cash balance of £60,000 is set for this reserve (value at 31 December 2021: £89,693). The "surplus" will be carried forward to fund projects in 2022.
- *Trustee Reserve Funds (Restricted and Designated)* – These (historical) funds, four of which have income mandated to Local Meetings, are separately identified (see Notes 17 and 18). Apart from the Trustee General Reserve (see above), there are no current plans to expend the capital.
- *Black Country Fund (Designated)* – The Black Country Fund will continue to receive income from the Trustee Reserve Fund of c. £9,000 per annum with no target level of reserves to be held.
- *Redditch Building Fund* – This fund was established to make repairs and improvements to Redditch Meeting House (which is no longer used for Meetings for Worship and is currently an investment property). There is no income source, and if and when it is depleted the Trustee Fund will be used for ongoing expenditure.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

Table: Reserves policy for unrestricted Trustee and General Funds

Fund/Criteria	Policy	Target Values	Actual Values 31 Dec 2021
General Fund bank account/ General Fund commitments	Budget should be balanced and capital should not be used for operational expenditure	£30,000	£31,704
General Fund Reserve/ Unforeseen expenditure	<i>(established in 2013 from the proceeds of Trustee Reserve Funds)</i> – this fund will be wound up in 2022, with the proceeds transferred to the General Fund	£25,000	£17,678
General Fund Investments/ to cover exceptional unforeseen expenditure and provide adequate investment income	Investments to be equivalent to between 6 – 12 months general fund expenditure	£100,000	£141,643
General Fund/ contingency to cover a major financial disaster affecting a Local Meeting or Branch	Contingency investment fund in addition to unforeseen expenditure above	£100,000	£100,000
Trustee Fund bank account/	Protection for general cash flow, salary payments and contingency for unforeseen repairs	Minimum £60,000 in total	£61,115

Other Financial activities and issues

The Contribution Schedule continues to be supported by individual Friends, and the total funds distributed to beneficiaries in 2021 was £60,759. This represents an increase of 8% on the previous year.

One of trustees' tasks is to provide Minutes of Authority for Local Meetings or Branches that are opening bank accounts or investment accounts. Trustees also assist Local Meetings with completing applications to open new bank accounts or purchase investments.

Performance of the trading subsidiary (Priory Rooms)

When lockdowns began in March 2020 no-one would have predicted that, a year on, trading ability would still be severely impacted, but this is what Priory Rooms faced in the early months of 2021. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, the first booking that could be taken was not until the end of April 2021, when all of our rooms were leased, plus the Peace Hub, to the BBC for the production of the drama series "You don't know me". Following that, the hiring of rooms was limited, with clients very hesitant to commit themselves to face-to-face meetings because of continued high rates of infection. In October, Priory Rooms was also hit by the closure of the car park due to remedial work on the Metro tracks in Bull Street, but trading continued and the position was improving into November until the emergence of the Omicron variant, which further impacted trading, leading to an annual loss for the year after tax of just over £130,000. The Government's furlough scheme, which helped to retain staff, finished at the end of September. One member of staff was made redundant and the working hours of some of the others was reduced, enabling the business to enter 2022 with almost all of the staff team intact and well placed for a recovery. At the end of the year future bookings were predicting a hopeful start to 2022, which has materialised, with a particularly good trading month in March.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

Grants policy

The Area Meeting is not a grant-making charity and the items referred to as grants mostly consist of the gifts (from central funds and Local Meetings) to the charity's parent body, Britain Yearly Meeting, contributions to other Quaker work, donations to non-Quaker charities (mainly by Local Meetings acting under concern) and subscriptions to ecumenical bodies of which CEQ is a member.

In 2021 the following donations were made from charitable funds to external beneficiaries (£): -

Overseas beneficiaries	nil
Non-CEQ Quaker charities	47,505 *
Britain Yearly Meeting	44,968
Non-Quaker charities	23,405
Non-charities	<u>2,959</u>
TOTAL	118,837

** includes a £33,375 donation to ecobirmingham (formerly a CEQ Branch but from July 2018 an independent CIO supported by CEQ).*

The funds used for these purposes derive from members' donations and investment income and not from the general public. All of the donations (as listed above) were approved at a formal business meeting, and recorded by Minute.

Going concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern, the evidence for which is as follows:

All of the key funds held by the charity are overall above target levels, as defined in the Reserves Policy. Principal sources of income are the rents from investment properties, donations from members and the hire of rooms. The rent income is underpinned by the length and stability of the leases, and donations from members have been stable for many years, with no known risk of any significant reduction.

The Covid-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on the charity's finances in 2021, and will also affect 2022, but there are sufficient reserves to support the charity through this period.

The risks faced by the charity are well understood, with extensive mitigation measures in place. Specific financial risks are incorporated in the reserves policy.

With the exception of one of its Branches, the charity is not dependent on external funding or fundraising for its income, and the relatively small scale of the activities limits the risks associated with this Branch.

Property (repair and maintenance) risks are mitigated by the regular (quinquennial) building surveys undertaken, and by the comprehensive insurance cover that is in place. Major unforeseen expenditure on property is protected by the substantial (c. £500,000) central Building Fund held in reserve.

2 Property

A key task for Property committee in 2021 (continued from 2020) was managing the use of Meeting Houses safely under Covid-19 restrictions.

Part of Property committee's work is allocated to three "working groups" responsible for property management and compliance ("PMC"), investment properties and Bull Street Premises.

PMC's work covers: -

- Distribution of Annual Property Questionnaires to all Local Meetings with properties (implemented in 2021)
- Arranging Quinquennial Surveys (implemented in 2020)
- Reviewing the property section of the "Memorandum of Understanding" (between Local Meetings and trustees) and monitoring compliance (completed in 2021)
- Managing the charity's insurance policies and obtaining building and contents valuations (undertaken 2021)
- Developing a Lettings Policy and providing Local Meetings with a model hire agreement (both were reviewed and revised in 2018)
- Ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken annually and providing local Premises committees with templates
- Promoting awareness of the CEQ Health & Safety Policy, and keeping the property sections of the policy under review
- Arranging and leading annual gatherings of local Premises committee representatives. A very successful gathering was held in October 2019, but due to the pandemic it was not appropriate to arrange one in 2020 or 2021

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

The **investment properties group** is responsible for negotiating, managing and renewing leases for the various properties (see Note 12 for details), for arranging repairs for those properties for which CEQ is responsible (as landlord), and to arrange formal valuations of the properties every 5 years, with a "desktop" review of values undertaken annually.

The Bull Street properties (40 Bull Street – Meeting House and Priory Rooms conference centre, and 41 Bull Street – Peace Hub) are managed by the **"Bull Street Premises Group"** (BSPG) which draws its membership from CEQ trustees, Bull Street Local Meeting, Peace Hub and Priory Rooms directors & staff. Repairs, maintenance and improvements are funded from the Bull Street Fund (see Note 18). Expenditure in 2021 was £10,293.

Meeting House Management Group (MHMG): this new group was established in March 2021 as a working group of Property committee, to oversee the management of the property and assets of Meeting Houses that are no longer the responsibility of Local Meetings/committees. Initially four Meetings/Meeting Houses are being supported – two continuing Local Meetings (Barnt Green & Redditch and Kings Heath), and two Meeting Houses which are no longer used for Quaker worship (Edgbaston and Northfield). The funds held by the former Local Meetings have been transferred into a new centrally-managed "Group MH" bank account, but for the time being the money is being held in four separate designated funds rather than "pooled". Lettings and property management are being handled by Priory Rooms staff under the terms of the Service Agreement.

Meeting House projects, and "Property Link Friends"

Each Meeting House has a member of Property committee assigned to liaise with the Local Meeting as "Property Link Friend" (PLF). PLFs report to the committee on their linked properties at each committee meeting.

A number of Meeting House projects were undertaken in 2021, including: -

- Refurbishment of the bathroom of the Hartshill Meeting House Flat (grant from Building Fund of £2,500 and a loan of £2,500).
- Ongoing planning for a major refurbishment of Coventry Meeting House, including the installation of a lift (grant from Building Fund of £11,400 to cover professional fees was awarded in November 2020). A design was selected by the local Business Meeting in February 2022.
- Repairs to and refurbishment of the Meeting Houses managed by MHMG, mainly to improve the facilities for hirers. This work was funded from MHMG's resources.

There was just one Building Fund grant in 2021, of £2,500, and one new loan of £2,500. Repayments of existing loans totalled £17,600.

3 Employment

The Employment committee held six meetings during the year and continued to have oversight of the Area Meeting employees. During the second year of government-imposed restrictions and lockdowns the welfare of the staff was a primary concern. Some staff continued to work from home and flexible furlough arrangements were in place.

The government's furlough scheme continued for the first six months of 2021 and contributed 80% of staff salaries. The Finance Administrator managed these claims which with flexible furlough was quite complicated. Trustees continued to be committed to pay staff their full salary whilst on furlough. In July the Government scheme was reduced to 70% and in August to 60%. Again, Trustees agreed to top up to full salary. Additionally, all CEQ employees are paid at least the Voluntary Living Wage (VLW), and this was increased in November to £9.90 per hour, a rise of 4.21%. All staff received an annual cost of living pay rise in 2022.

The committee also had to keep up to date with employment regulations and many policies were revised in the light of these changes. All policies are regularly reviewed and updated as required. In 2021 these included: CEQ Staff IT Policy, Volunteer policy, Time off in lieu (TOIL) policy, and Induction and Probation for Staff policy. The Annual Leave and TOIL Record Sheet was updated, and following the review of contracts in 2020 a new template for future CEQ Staff Contracts was agreed. The revised policies were sent to both staff and line managers and posted on the CEQ website, making them accessible. The trustees have a COMPLY retained contract with the company Roots HR to support these HR tasks.

The committee paid particular attention to the welfare of staff during the pandemic, especially when some had to self-isolate. The contracted 24-hour telephone counselling support service with BHSF which was set up for employees and their families in 2020, was upgraded and an enhanced service continued to be available for our staff and their families.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

4 Records Advisory

Following the easing of Covid lockdown restrictions, the committee was able to meet four times during 2021. These were usually blended meetings. A number of workshops to deal with archiving also took place. We were sad to hear of the death of Miriam Branson, a long standing and helpful member of the committee but we were pleased to welcome Fiona Waterhouse.

The delayed accession of records to the Library of Birmingham took place in April and the gift of books to the Cadbury Research Library was progressed during 2021.

We continued to receive records from Local Meetings and Branches as well as trustee committees. The listing of deeds in the strong room was completed, although this will need monitoring and revising as necessary. We also continued to receive and advise on queries regarding records from the general public as well as Quakers.

5 Governance and Compliance

Six trustees are members of this committee which met four times during the year. In 2021 the committee considered the following matters.

Safeguarding: The co-ordinators were invited to report to this committee in February and presented the new policy and tool kit. Trustees were asked to approve it before being presented to Area Meeting in July. The co-ordinators held two training sessions on Zoom for volunteers in Local Meetings to update them on current policy in the autumn. The CEQ Safeguarding Trustee keeps in regular contact with the two safeguarding co-ordinators about issues of concern and reports regularly to trustees.

Governing Document: As a consequence of the lockdown, the Charity Commission advised charities to check the section of their Governing Document referring to the right holding of business meetings. Trustees discovered that changes should be made to the to take account of the use of virtual meetings for our routine business meetings. This was completed and all business meetings in the Area Meeting can be held virtually.

Memorandum of Understanding: This is the agreement between trustees and the Local Meetings and Branches to ensure that all legal requirements are being met financially, with the upkeep of the property, employment practice, keeping and storing records and personal data, health & safety as well as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This is the assurance that the charity is working well and is compliant. Most reports from Local Meetings and Branches were received by end of the year and checked by the service committees. Any non-compliance issues were followed up.

General Data Protection Regulation: Trustees oversee GDPR in the Area Meeting. The policies were reviewed in 2021 and small changes were made. A reminder was sent to Local Meetings to ensure they remain compliant.

Management of risk: The Risk Register is kept up to date by each of the service committees and overseen by the Governance and Compliance committee. During the year the following key risks were identified.

a) *Loss of income as a result of a pandemic*

The trustees, Local Meetings and Branches each have their own reserves policies and these were tested this year because of the lockdown and restrictions on meeting. Government support was available and was applied for, the insurance companies were able to pay out on claims for loss of income in 2020. Trustees continued to monitor Local Meetings and were pleased that they were managing their resources. At the routine meetings the effect on the Area Meeting, Local Meetings and Branches was monitored. However, the biggest financial loss was with Priory Rooms and this will affect the charity in 2022. This was reviewed in June and a group was appointed to consider how to respond to this situation. The Area Meeting agreed to offer the Priory Rooms a flexible loan to mitigate against cash flow problems until business recovered.

b) *Decrease in active membership*

The charity is heavily dependent on members to take on key roles and there are fewer Friends able to serve on the many trustees' committees. The Local Meetings have the same problem and finding treasurers and clerks is increasingly difficult. In 2021 two smaller Local Meetings continued to meet but their property and finances were managed by the Meeting House Management Group (see section 2). This arrangement is working well. Recruitment for a Principal Officer recommenced with the hope that the post would be filled in 2022.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

c) Reputational damage

The use of social media to promote a particular campaign has become more widely used, leading to a loss of control, and it is easy for Friends to set up Facebook pages which present distorted information. Also, Friends can use the local press to publish articles presenting their own opinion in the name of Quakers. This happened in 2021 and the incident was reported to the Charity Commission. Subsequently a policy for staff and volunteers using social media or the press was developed in 2021, to be adopted in 2022.

c) IT systems

The use of home PCs, laptops, smart phones and tablets by volunteers is a recognised risk in the organisation, and with the need for staff working from home during the lockdown this risk increased. As well as drafting a new IT policy for staff a cloud storage system for the charity's shared documents was set up. These will be monitored. Local role holders continue to be encouraged to use generic email accounts for Quaker business.

e) Compliance with legislation and regulation

Trustees maintain policies covering all aspects of property, finance, employment as well as specific legislation for Covid-19 security, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, GDPR, health and safety these are agreed by the Area Meeting and posted on the CEQ website. Compliance with policies by Local Meetings and Branches is reviewed every two years, via the Memorandum of Understanding. The Link Trustee and Property Link Friend liaise with them regularly to ensure they understand their responsibility.

f) Maintenance and safety of CEQ properties

Property management is overseen by Property committee, with committee members assigned to individual Local Meetings as "Property Link Friends". In 2020 the detailed Quinquennial Survey of all properties was undertaken. During 2021 some of the recommended work on the property was carried out by the Local Meetings.

Risk Assessments (including the assessment of Fire Risks) are prepared by Local Meetings and Branches and reviewed annually. Financial support is available from the central Building Fund for major improvements or unforeseen major repairs to Meeting Houses. Guidance is given to Local Meetings by Property committee on fire and emergency exit safety.

g) Misappropriation or inaccurate recording of funds

Internal fraud is an ever-present risk, but there are robust financial procedures in place. All Local Meeting and Branch annual accounts are examined prior to consolidation. Examiners are asked to complete an examination checklist, with a section enabling them to record any matters of concern. Management of central funds is overseen by Finance committee. All online payments are subject to dual authorisation, and limits of authority for cheques are defined and controlled. Opening of (or changes to) bank accounts and applications for investments are subject to validation by two trustees. The charity provides Local Meetings with guidelines on handling cash collections, and local procedures are checked as part of the annual examination of accounts.

h) Cyber Fraud

Most Local Meetings and Branches, as well as the trustees, use internet banking, and there is always the risk of scams. To mitigate this risk there is regular training for treasurers which includes awareness raising. Dual authorisation for online payments is mandatory, and the person setting up the payment is required to send a copy of the invoice to the second authoriser, to verify that the payment is genuine.

E Future Plans

- The Central Fund budget for 2022 anticipates a requirement to draw on reserves in 2022 (as was necessary in 2021), in the region of £60,000. There are sufficient free reserves to cover this requirement. It is hoped that Priory Rooms trading will have recovered sufficiently by 2023 to enable the company to provide a gift to the charity, which will help CEQ to achieve a "balanced budget" that year.
- Plans to convene a special area meeting to consider 'What does love require of us?' to look at the future of Central England Quakers is planned for May 2022. This will inform how the Area Meeting moves forward.
- The Meeting House Management Group will be reviewed as part of this move forward.
- Simplifying the structures locally and in Area Meeting will be part of this process.
- Undertaking a review of the charity's assets, especially property will be part of this process.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2021 (continued)

- The Principal Officer will take up this post in June 2022, and the relationship with the trustees, committees and Area Meeting co clerks will be developed.
- The service agreement with Priory Rooms will continue during 2022 to develop the use of buildings not in the care of Local Meetings.
- The concern for Climate Justice will continue in Local Meetings, Branches and with Friends to raise awareness of the climate emergency in the UK as well as the rest of the world.
- Safeguarding children and vulnerable adults will remain a priority and training for the local safeguarding co-ordinators, pastoral carers, and children's committees' volunteers in Local Meeting will be arranged.
- The risk register will be updated.

F Public benefit statement

The trustees consider they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The charity makes available and provides the following to further its purposes for the public benefit:

- Regular holding of public Meetings for Worship.
- Provision of information about the Quaker way to "seekers", through courses, discussion, study groups and literature.
- Meeting Houses which are used by many different groups and are of value to the local community.
- Support for a Dance School, which leases Redditch Meeting House, and provides tuition for young people.
- Support for ecobirmingham, an environmental charity which leases property in Northfield.
- Information on energy-saving and lifestyle improvements through CEQ Climate Emergency Action Group.
- Training in mediation skills in schools and anti-bullying strategies, provided online by the West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers).
- Gifts of food for families in need, through the Quaker Christmas Parcels project and involvement with foodbanks in local areas.
- Housing and care for elderly people, in partnership with other Quaker charities.
- Funding for overseas work and for witness in UK.
- Working with Interfaith and Ecumenical groups to further community cohesion and understanding

Trustees consider that the following in particular benefit from the charity's activities:

- All who are interested in the Religious Society of Friends, its worship, values, testimonies, business methods, projects and concerns.
- Members of CEQ, who are encouraged to participate actively in the work of the charity and its decision-making. Quakers have no paid clergy, and volunteers who are given training as required, and acquire knowledge and skills, carry out much of the work.
- "Attenders" at Meetings for Worship, who are permitted to take an active part in many Quaker roles, and who may benefit as above.
- Local communities, which benefit from the use of Quaker Meeting Houses.
- Local councils, which may benefit from the use of Meeting Houses as polling stations and councillors' surgeries.
- Prisoners supported by Quaker prison chaplains, and Quakers involved in the criminal justice system.
- Asylum seekers, who are supported by various projects and through the work done on their behalf.
- Mental health patients in the Birmingham area, who benefit from the work of Quaker chaplains.
- Older people, through the provision of residential care.
- People interested in developing a more sustainable, low carbon lifestyle, through the Eco Church scheme and the services of ecobirmingham.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Governing Document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of information to the auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow trustees and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 13 September 2022 and signed on behalf of the trustees by;

Judith Jenner)
) trustees
Robert Morris)

The financial statements were submitted to the Charity Commission on 14 September 2022 and to the BYM Recording Clerk's Office on 14 September 2022.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities and group for the year ended 31 December 2021 which comprise of the charity and group statement of financial activities, the charity and group statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charity's affairs as at 31 December 2021 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

In auditing the financial statements, we have concluded that the trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is appropriate.

Based on the work we have performed, we have not identified any material uncertainties relating to events or conditions that, individually or collectively, may cast significant doubt on the charity's or the group's ability to continue as a going concern for a period of at least twelve months from when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Our responsibilities and the responsibilities of the trustees with respect to going concern are described in the relevant sections of this report.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- certain disclosures of Trustee remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- returns adequate for our audit have not been received from Branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

We have been appointed as auditor under Section 151 of the Charities Act 2011 and report in accordance with the Acts and relevant regulations made or having effect thereunder.

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. We have audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business. We have also made enquiries of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

Owing to the inherent limitations of an audit, there is an unavoidable risk that we may not have detected some material misstatements in the financial statements, even though we have properly planned and performed our audit in accordance with auditing standards. For example, the further removed non-compliance with laws and regulations (irregularities) is from the events and transactions reflected in the financial statements, the less likely the inherently limited procedures required by auditing standards would identify it. In addition, as with any audit, there remained a higher risk of non-detection of irregularities, as these may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal controls. We are not responsible for preventing non-compliance and cannot be expected to detect non-compliance with all laws and regulations.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Use of our report

This report is made solely to the charity's trustees, as a body, in accordance with Part 4 of the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's trustees those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's trustees as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed.

Philippa Miller-Hawkes BA CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
BSN Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2JG

13 September 2022

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	98,774	87,077	185,851	290,948
Charitable activities	192,444	30,283	222,727	79,951
Investment Income	264,134	10,377	274,511	272,490
Other Income	37,998	5,584	43,582	59,817
Total income	593,350	133,322	726,671	703,205
Expenditure				
Cost of raising funds	(8,246)	(3,125)	(11,371)	(9,283)
Charitable activities	(614,291)	(195,869)	(810,160)	(1,052,803)
Total expenditure	(622,537)	(198,994)	(821,531)	(1,062,086)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	358,370	94,159	452,529	89,278
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers	329,182	28,487	357,670	(269,603)
Transfers between funds	(40,532)	40,532	-	-
Net movement in funds	288,651	69,019	357,670	(269,603)
Total funds brought forward	7,757,195	1,022,646	8,779,841	9,049,445
Total funds carried forward	8,045,847	1,091,665	9,137,512	8,779,841

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2021	Total 2020
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		98,774	87,077	185,851	290,948
Charitable activities		192,444	30,283	222,727	79,951
Other trading activities		110,094	-	110,094	188,942
Investment Income		264,389	10,377	274,766	274,465
Other Income		120,628	5,584	126,212	189,356
Total income	4	786,329	133,322	919,650	1,023,661
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(350,068)	(3,125)	(353,193)	(412,405)
Charitable activities	6	(576,394)	(195,869)	(772,263)	(1,079,281)
Total expenditure		(926,462)	(198,994)	(1,125,456)	(1,491,686)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	359,150	94,159	453,309	90,796
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		219,016	28,487	247,504	(377,229)
Transfers between funds	7	(40,532)	40,532	-	-
Net movement in funds		178,485	69,020	247,504	(377,229)
Total funds brought forward		7,993,782	1,022,646	9,016,428	9,393,658
Total funds carried forward		8,172,268	1,091,666	9,263,934	9,016,428

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY AND CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 December 2021

	Note	Charity 2021	Charity 2020	Group 2021	Group 2020
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	1,500,591	1,579,967	1,522,062	1,622,576
Investments	12	6,825,885	6,385,509	6,825,885	6,462,988
Total fixed assets		8,326,476	7,965,476	8,347,947	8,085,564
Current assets					
Debtors	13	21,917	18,128	58,379	55,817
Cash at bank and in hand		820,437	825,979	915,227	962,838
Total current assets		842,354	844,107	973,606	1,018,655
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within 1 year	14	(31,319)	(29,742)	(82,745)	(88,248)
Net current assets		811,035	814,365	890,861	930,407
Total assets less current liabilities		9,137,512	8,779,841	9,238,808	9,015,974
Creditors falling due after 1 year	14	-	-	-	-
Provisions	16	-	-	(25,125)	458
Net assets	19	9,137,512	8,779,841	9,263,934	9,016,428
Unrestricted		6,215,658	6,082,016	6,342,079	6,318,603
Restricted	17	1,091,666	1,022,646	1,091,666	1,022,646
Designated	18	1,830,189	1,675,180	1,830,189	1,675,180
Total funds		9,137,512	8,779,841	9,263,934	9,016,428

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 13 September 2022 and signed on their behalf by:

Judith Jenner	)	
	)	Trustees
Robert Morris	)	

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

	2021	2020
	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Net movement in funds	247,504	(377,230)
Depreciation Charge	101,079	105,854
Dividends and interest	(274,766)	(274,465)
Losses/(gains) on investments	(437,882)	(56,945)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	(2,562)	83,843
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and provisions	(30,170)	(74,934)
Net cash used in operating activities	(396,797)	(593,878)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest received	274,766	274,465
Purchase of fixed assets	(565)	(116,088)
Net sale/(purchase) of investments	74,985	250,868
Net cash provided by investing activities	349,186	409,245
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of borrowing	-	-
Management of liquid resources		
Movement in short term deposits	20,905	50,321
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	(26,705)	(134,311)
Increase/(decrease) in short term deposits	(20,905)	(50,321)
Cash at bank and in hand	829,424	963,735
Short term deposits	133,413	183,734
Net funds brought forward	962,837	1,147,469
Cash at bank and in hand	802,719	829,424
Short term deposits	112,508	133,413
Net funds carried forward	915,227	962,838

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

1. General information

The charity is a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the area meeting office is: 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements incorporate the affairs of Central England Area Quaker Meeting and the Local Meetings and other Branches set out in note 21 to the financial statements. Transfers between the Local Meetings, the Branches and the Area Meeting are eliminated from income and expenditure. The financial statements also exclude those donations received by the Area Meeting and Local Meetings, which are paid over to various charities at the donors' requests.

The financial statements also incorporate, where applicable and where amounts are described as 'group', the affairs of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary.

The subsidiary, which is a limited company and not a charity has been consolidated on a line by line basis. Intergroup balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Central England Quakers (CEQ) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The Trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, as set out in their report.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate the availability of funds they are categorised according to the following definitions:

- Unrestricted general funds are available for any purpose of the Charity.
- Designated funds represent amounts set aside for specific purposes but which remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting; and
- Restricted funds represent contributions, legacies and donations received earmarked by the testator or donor for specific purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised as above except where the income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, when the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the charity has been notified of the amount and settlement date.

Investment income is recognised when receivable and is shown gross to include income tax recovered and recoverable. Other income is accounted for on the basis of amounts receivable for the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many members, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of members is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services or facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on using the accruals basis, inclusive of any value added tax that cannot be recovered.

Taxation

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is chargeable to corporation tax on its income and capital gains. Otherwise Central England Area Quaker Meeting is a charity and is exempt from taxation on income derived from its charitable activities. Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited provides for taxation deferred as a result of timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Tangible fixed assets

The charity owns a number of functional properties comprising Meeting Houses, wardens' accommodation and their contents, and other buildings used by CEQ Branches. These buildings are held in perpetuity for Meetings for Worship or other charitable activities, and contribute to the furtherance of the Central England Quaker's charitable objectives and are considered to be heritage assets under FRS 102. The heritage assets have been grouped together in the following categories:

Meeting Houses, Wardens' Accommodation and other buildings

There is no cost or accumulated depreciation recognised for these heritage assets, as allowable under Section 18 of FRS 102. Whilst it is believed that the market value, both at the time of acquisition and at the balance sheet date, was significantly in excess of £nil deemed cost and net book value, it is not possible to obtain a reliable estimate of the market value at either date. Conventional valuation techniques are not appropriate for the unique and historical nature of the assets. In addition, the Trustees consider it an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain valuations for all 16 properties and not befitting of the objectives of the charity.

Major expenditure on improvements to property at 40 Bull Street incurred during 1999 were capitalised and are being depreciated at 5% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. Expenditure on the conference centre in Bull Street is being depreciated at 2% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. A replacement heating system for 40 Bull Street was installed during 2020 and is being depreciated at 10% per annum on cost from 1 November 2020. This has been included within the Refurbishment of Meeting House asset category in note 11.

Any developments or improvements to the building greater than £10,000 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over the improvement's useful economic life. Maintenance costs are charged to the SOFA in the period they are incurred.

Contents of Meeting Houses

A number of the Meeting Houses contents have also been recognised at £nil cost and £nil accumulated depreciation as it is impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's resources to value the specific items in the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

3. Accounting policies (continued)

The Trustees capitalise individual items of equipment costing £10,000 or more where there is a continuing economic value and a reliable measurement of cost or fair value is available. These assets are depreciated annually so as to write off the cost over their economic useful lives. In the subsidiary company equipment is capitalised where the asset has a continuing economic value.

Other fixed assets, which have been capitalised, are being depreciated at the following annual rates on cost:

Furniture and fittings	-	at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	-	25% on cost
Heating and hot water system	-	10 years
Refurbishment of Meeting house	-	20 years
Conference Centre etc.	-	50 years

Investments

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange and fair value is equivalent to the market value. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at bid price. The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial interests.

Investment properties are re-valued periodically or when changes in rental income necessitate revaluation. Fair value is generally open market value.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Short term deposits comprise funds held in savings or deposit (rather than current) accounts which are surplus to immediate cash flow requirements and are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Pension costs

The charity and its subsidiary contribute to defined contribution schemes for some of their employees. The pension cost represents the total amount payable to the schemes in the year. The pension cost is directly charged to funds with contributory employees.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

4. Income

The comparative amounts for 2020 between consolidated funds are:

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020
Donations and legacies	155,823	135,125	290,948
Charitable activities	59,869	20,082	79,951
Other trading activities	188,942	-	188,942
Investment Income	263,179	11,286	274,465
Other Income	187,029	2,327	189,356
Total income	854,841	168,820	1,023,661

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

5. Costs of raising funds (Group)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	£
Priory Rooms (Bull St) Limited:				
Meeting & conference facilities	366,490	-	366,490	416,410
Corporation Tax	(24,668)	-	(24,668)	(13,288)
Commercial lettings:				
Letting fees	4,964	-	4,964	4,758
Other	3,282	3,125	6,407	4,525
	350,068	3,125	353,193	412,405
2020	408,977	3,428	412,405	

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (Group)

Support, governance and other costs are directly incurred by the various funds, there is no apportionment required centrally and there are no central function costs.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2021 Total	2020 Total
	£	£	£	
Payroll costs	85,122	105,547	190,669	223,652
Repairs and maintenance	120,812	19,436	140,248	196,592
Costs of Quaker activities	142,715	38,507	181,223	383,546
Depreciation	101,079	-	101,079	105,854
Other employee costs	54,466	18,392	72,857	68,667
Utilities	24,842	4,587	29,429	37,377
Insurance	26,010	2,479	28,489	22,328
Costs of governance	18,260	-	18,260	32,899
Other costs	3,088	6,922	10,010	8,367
	576,394	195,869	772,263	1,079,281
2020	829,165	250,116	1,079,281	

Included within the expenditure on activities are amounts paid to defined contribution pension plans for employees of £9,643 (2020: £11,513).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (*continued*)

Costs of governance includes the auditors' remuneration of £10,362 (2020: £9,420) for auditing and accounting fees which is incurred by the central funds and is not apportioned to individual Branches. The amount also includes irrecoverable value added tax.

7. Restricted Transfers

The transfers into the restricted fund were grants from the Trustees General fund into the Peacemakers for £40,000 and the Peace Hub for £5,000 as well as donations raised from local meetings to support the ongoing work of these branches.

8. Staff details and analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity does not employ a chief executive and the Trustees consider the key management personnel to be the Trustees. The Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year (2020: £Nil). No Trustees received reimbursement of travelling expenses in 2021 (2020: £Nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2020: £Nil).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2020: £Nil). Pension costs are incurred directly by the cost centre where staff are employed and allocated to the various funds accordingly.

There are 8 statutory directors of the subsidiary (2020: 8) who receive no remuneration or benefits.

The average number of employees during the year analysed by function was:

	2021	2020
Conference facilities	13	13
Other Branches and projects	5	7
Wardens, caretakers and gardeners	5	8
Administration	1	1
	24	29

The total staff costs for the year were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Wages and salaries – conference facilities	238,629	258,423
Wages and salaries – other	170,686	198,679
National insurance	29,570	30,043
Pension costs	21,037	23,270
	459,922	510,415

All conference facilities staff are employed by the subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. These costs are included in costs of raising funds.

9. Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2021 £	2020 £
Unrestricted	224,457	(19,729)
Designated	134,693	56,096
Restricted	94,159	54,429
Total net gains	453,309	90,796

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

10. Related party transactions

Included within donations to the charity is an aggregate amount of £8,584 (2020: £10,513) received from the Trustees.

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2021	854,667	2,015,647	248,496	35,118	3,153,928
Additions	-	-	-	565	565
At 31 December 2021	854,667	2,015,647	248,496	35,683	3,154,493
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2021	611,192	679,155	208,026	32,979	1,531,352
Charge for year	39,063	40,313	20,781	922	101,079
At 31 December 2021	650,255	719,468	228,807	33,901	1,632,431
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2021	204,412	1,296,179	19,689	1,782	1,522,062
At 31 December 2020	243,475	1,336,492	40,470	2,139	1,622,576
Charity					
	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2021	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Additions	-	-	-	-	-
At 31 December 2021	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2021	611,192	679,155	10,262	-	1,300,609
Charge for year	39,063	40,313	-	-	79,376
At 31 December 2021	650,255	719,468	10,262	-	1,379,985
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2021	204,412	1,296,179	-	-	1,500,591
At 31 December 2020	243,475	1,336,492	-	-	1,579,967

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

11. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

All Group tangible assets are classified as unrestricted funds as they are held as part of the Trustees Fund where all assets are used for whatever is deemed appropriate to further the charity's objectives.

Refurbishment of Bull St Meeting House

During 1999 a programme of improvement and refurbishment was carried out at 40 Bull Street at a cost of £702,704, which has been capitalised and is being depreciated at 5% per annum from 1 January 2004.

During 2020 a new boiler and heating system was installed at 40 Bull Street at a cost of £110,104, which has been capitalised and is being depreciated at 10% per annum from 1 November 2020.

Conference Centre

The centre consists of a conference suite and ground level refreshment area for the use of the charity and other Quaker and charitable bodies together with significant commercial use. The operation of the centre is managed by the charity's subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. The conference centre is being depreciated at 2% per annum from 1 January 2004.

Heritage assets

As described in the accounting policies note, there is a cost and accumulated depreciation of £nil for the Meeting Houses and wardens' accommodation owned and used by the charity and group for Worship and charity activities. The buildings are maintained by the charity for their contribution to knowledge and culture of the Quaker faith. It would be impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain market valuations for such unique assets and their contents. A description is given of each of the assets below and the year in which the Meeting Houses were constructed. On the basis of the age of the properties, had the original cost been capitalised, the Trustees are of the view that the assets would be fully depreciated at the balance sheet date. No reliable information exists to include original cost and accumulated depreciation amounts.

The charity is the beneficial owner of the following heritage asset properties:

Type of property	Year	Address
Freehold		
Meeting House	1969	6 Sandhills Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NR
Meeting House and wardens' bungalow	1964	23 Watford Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1JB
Meeting House	1930	Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB
Meeting House and Conference Centre	1931	40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF
CEQ Peace Hub	1931	41 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
Meeting House	1953	Hill Street, Coventry, CV1 4AN
Meeting House	1892	George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1JP
Meeting House	1927	Hamlet Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9BG
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1972	112 Castle Road, Hartshill, CV10 0SG
Meeting House *	1983	17 Colmore Row, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7PE
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1695	39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
Meeting House	1939	Kenelm Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6HD
Woodlands Quaker Home	1945	434 Penn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4DH
Long leasehold		
Meeting House	1689	Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR
Meeting House	1905	65 Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT
Short leasehold		
Meeting House	1926	930 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NP

* Kings Heath Meeting House, which is occupied rent free by the Local Meeting, was previously owned by a separate charity, South Birmingham Friends Institute, but was transferred to CEQ in October 2020.

The heritage asset contents of the above properties for which there is no recorded cost are classified into the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents. The Trustees preserve these assets by keeping a register of assets held at each Branch and insuring the assets appropriately to protect them from damage or loss.

The titles to all of the properties owned by the charity and group are held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee with strict restrictions on disposition of the freehold which requires authorisation by an order of the court.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

12. Fixed asset investments

Group investments:

	2021		2020	
	Freehold properties £	Listed securities £	Freehold properties £	Listed securities £
Market value brought forward	4,270,650	2,192,338	4,304,500	2,352,410
Net additions/(sales)	195,000	(269,985)	-	(250,868)
Revaluation	-	437,882	(33,850)	90,796
Total Group investments	4,465,650	2,360,235	4,270,650	2,192,338

Group fixed asset investments are held between funds as follows:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Unrestricted	4,712,702	4,566,505
Restricted	869,979	793,032
Designated	1,243,204	1,103,451
Total Group investments	6,825,885	6,462,988

Charity investments:

	2021	2020
	£	£
Market value		
Freehold properties	4,465,650	4,270,650
Listed securities	2,360,235	2,114,859
Total Charity investments	6,825,885	6,385,509

Freehold Properties

The charity and group own the following freehold investment properties held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee:

Two bungalows adjacent to Barnt Green Meeting House at 6a Sandhills Road, Barnt Green. The 6a property was valued on an open market basis at £180,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The 6b property, formerly a warden's bungalow, was converted to private rented accommodation and reclassified as an investment property in May 2021, and both properties are subject to shorthold tenancies. The 6b property was valued on an open market basis at £195,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 30 March 2022.

The property known as Redditch Meeting House, Matchborough, Redditch, B98 0ER. Following the termination of a lease to Worcester County Council (from 2009 to 2015), the property was let on short lease from 1 November 2015 to Latham School of Dance and from 1 August 2018 to Amelia's Dance Academy. The property was revalued on an open market basis at £67,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Private flat and community cafe at 39 High Street Warwick CV34 4AX. The property was valued on an open market basis at £120,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The property has been let to a private tenant since June 2016.

Office accommodation at 51 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. This property was valued on an open market basis at £116,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. It is leased to Oulsnam and a renewed ten year lease from 25 December 2013 was signed in August 2014.

Office accommodation at 53 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. It was valued on an open market basis at £80,500 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. It is leased to ecobirmingham, and a five year lease was signed on 2 July 2018.

A bungalow adjacent to the Meeting House in Selly Oak was formerly warden's accommodation and treated as a functional property but during 2014 it was adapted for commercial letting, and was reclassified as an investment property. The property was valued on an open market basis at £27,150 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

A flat within the Hartshill Meeting House has been converted into private rented accommodation and was reclassified as an investment property for 2019. The flat was valued at £65,000 on an open market basis by Lawrence & Wightman on 31 December 2020.

An office development on land owned by the Area Meeting at 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham. The land is let on a 250 years lease from 29 September 1999 and was valued on an open market basis at £3,615,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

The types of investment held at 31 December 2021 and their market values were:

	2021 £	2020 £
Listed investments (incl. loan stocks)	241,644	278,995
Investment properties	4,465,650	4,270,650
Social investments	5,409	7,694
Other investments (Unit Trusts, Branch & Trustee Reserves)	2,113,182	1,905,649
Total Group investments	6,825,885	6,462,991

Unlisted investments

The charity owns 100% of the Ordinary share capital of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited (company number: 05129631). There is no investment cost included in for the subsidiary in the charity's balance sheet, with all profit is donated back to the parent entity to support with the charitable objectives of Central England Quakers.

	2021 £	2020 £
Aggregate capital and reserves	126,422	236,589
Profit for the year after taxation	(110,166)	(107,626)

There has been no donations made by Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited to the parent charity in 2021 or in 2020 due to the performance of the trading subsidiary following various closures in the COVID-19 pandemic.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

The following is a summary of the profit for the year after taxation in Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited.

	2021	2020
	£	£
Sales of conference facilities	169,694	188,942
Cost of sales	(15,499)	(20,974)
Distribution costs	(284)	(2,805)
Administrative expenses	(372,410)	(419,109)
Other operating income	82,630	129,539
Management charge to parent charity	-	-
Operating profit/(loss)	(135,869)	(124,407)
Income and realised gains from investments	255	1,975
Gain on financial assets at fair value	780	1,518
Profit before taxation	(134,834)	(120,914)
Provision for deferred taxation (note 17)	24,668	13,288
Profit after taxation	(110,166)	(107,626)

The company paid a dividend of £Nil to the parent charity during the year (2020: £nil).

13. Debtors

	2021	2020
	£	£
Group		
Trade debtors	19,321	2,568
Other debtors	39,058	53,249
	58,379	55,817
	2021	2020
	£	£
Charity		
Trade Debtors	-	-
Other debtors	21,917	18,128
	21,917	18,128

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2021	2020
	£	£
Group		
Trade creditors	3,993	10,750
Social security and other taxes	37,923	26,245
Accruals	40,829	51,253
	82,745	88,248
	2021	2020
	£	£
Charity		
Social security and other taxes	10,677	5,497
Accruals	20,640	24,246
	31,318	29,743
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		
	2021	2020
	£	£
Group		
Corporation Tax (in Subsidiary)	-	-
	-	-

15. Secured assets

Freehold land and buildings at Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4DH, have been given as security for loan finance obtained in the Charity's name from Triodos Bank NV and in turn made available to Woodlands Quaker Home in respect of expenditure on new buildings. The amount of loan finance outstanding at 31 December 2021 was £63,832 (2020: £67,013). The loan is not included in these financial statements as the charity does not expect to have to meet any part of the debt. The last relevant market valuation for the secured property was £1,450,000 in May 2019.

Friends Trusts Ltd, as nominee for land, is a party to the leases (excluding tenancy agreements) pertaining to CEQ investment properties, which are 1 Colmore Square, Redditch Meeting House, 51 Church Road, 53 Church Road and the Woodlands.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

16. Provision for liabilities

	2021 £	2020 £
Deferred tax		
Accelerated capital allowances	(25,127)	(459)
	Deferred tax	£
Balance at 1 January 2021		(459)
Provided during year		
At 31 December 2021		(459)

The provision for deferred taxation arises in the charity's subsidiary company. The provision relates to unrestricted funds in 2021 and 2020.

17. Restricted funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	147,356	32,359	(41,678)	10,947	(5,079)	143,905
Other Branches	178,819	93,798	(152,911)	3,472	52,904	176,082
Building Fund	478,186	7,165	(4,405)	50,347	(7,292)	524,001
Trustees Reserves	218,286	-	-	29,393	-	247,678
Restricted funds	1,022,646	133,322	(198,994)	94,159	40,533	1,091,666

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Other Branches consist of those bodies set up by the Area Meeting for particular purposes and identified in the Trustees Report. The definition of a Branch is a committee or project that has its own bank account.

As described in the Trustees Report, branches of note are West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (known as "Peacemakers") and Peace Hub.

Building Fund Investments (previously classified as designated) comprise of investments held to support the maintenance, repair and improvement of the charity's Meeting Houses. The income from the investments is applied to a designated "Building Fund" bank account from which grants and loans are made to individual Local Meetings.

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. The two Funds which remain restricted are the proceeds of Atherstone Meeting House with income applied to Hartshill Local Meeting and the proceeds of Cotteridge Land Sale with income applied to Cotteridge Local Meeting.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

18. Designated funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	950,872	340,660	(263,160)	69,041	(7,079)	1,090,334
JYF Branch	1,608	-	(528)	-	(1,080)	-
Redditch	15,483	2	(14)	-	-	15,471
Bull Street	127,958	-	(10,293)	-	-	117,665
Building Fund	94,012	-	(110)	-	4,792	98,694
Black Country	13,955	8,148	(1,062)	-	39	21,080
Trustees Reserves	471,293	-	-	65,652	(50,000)	486,945
Designated funds	1,675,180	348,810	(275,166)	134,693	(53,328)	1,830,189

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Redditch Building Fund is held in respect of the Redditch Meeting House. The Meeting House at Redditch is no longer used by the Local Meeting and is leased to a Dance School. The landlord's responsibilities therefore lie with the Trustees and the previous sinking fund is held in a CAF Gold Account entitled 'Redditch Building Fund' to cover those items that are defined in the lease as being the responsibility of the landlord. Part of the fund was used in 2015 to make property 'fit for purpose' for the new tenant.

In 2009 a separate **Bull Street fund** was established to provide for the future refurbishment of the 40 Bull Street property (including Priory Rooms Conference Centre). The fund was used between 2014 and 2016 to support the refurbishment of Bull Street Meeting House (and Priory Rooms) and the conversion of the adjacent 41 Bull Street property for Quaker use as a Peace and Justice Centre (Peace Hub). Since 2016 the Fund has been used for annual repairs, maintenance and improvements to both properties. The principal source of income is transfers from the Trustee Fund. The Bull Street Investments were merged with the Building Fund Investments on 1 January 2019.

The Building Fund receives income from Building Fund Investments (see Restricted Funds) and provides loans or grants to assist Local Meetings to maintain their properties if a major repair is beyond their means and to carry out agreed improvements to premises.

The Black Country Fund is a designated fund established by area meeting in June 2015 to support the development of Quakerism in the Black Country. The fund comprises the residual assets of the former Dudley Local Meeting, which was laid down on 31 December 2015, and receives the dividend income from one of the Trustee Reserve Funds known as "Dudley Meeting Houses" (see below).

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. Previously classified as Restricted, two of the four funds have been reclassified as designated; Dudley Meeting Houses with income applied to the Black Country Fund and Proceeds of Church Road Properties Northfield with income applied to the Northfield Development Committee. A fifth Reserve Fund, Trustee General Reserve, was formerly known as Sellywood House Fund but was re-designated in 2021. In June 2021 £50,000 of the Fund was sold to provide a (budgeted) transfer from reserves.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

19. Analysis of Group assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Fixed Asset Investments	Net Current Assets	Creditors due after one year	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	1,415,628	4,712,702	188,624	(25,125)	6,342,079
Restricted funds					
Local Meetings	-	28,614	49,737	-	78,351
Other Branches	-	90,542	151,095	-	241,637
Building Fund	-	503,144	20,855	-	523,999
Trustees Reserves	-	247,679	-	-	247,679
Designated funds					
Local Meetings (incl.JYF)	-	756,259	343,073	-	1,099,333
Redditch	-	-	15,471	-	15,471
Bull Street	106,434	-	11,232	-	117,666
Building Fund	-	-	89,693	-	89,693
Black Country	-	-	21,081	-	21,081
Trustee Reserves	-	486,945	-	-	486,945
	1,522,062	6,825,885	890,861	(25,125)	9,263,934

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 December 2021

20. Consolidated (Group) Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2020

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		155,823	135,125	290,948	283,478
Charitable activities		59,869	20,082	79,951	238,384
Other trading activities		188,942	-	188,942	715,657
Investment Income		263,179	11,286	274,465	310,816
Other Income		187,029	2,327	189,356	15,583
Total income	4	854,841	168,820	1,023,661	1,563,918
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(408,977)	(3,428)	(412,405)	(587,646)
Charitable activities	6	(829,165)	(250,116)	(1,079,281)	(983,814)
Total expenditure		(1,238,142)	(253,544)	(1,491,686)	(1,571,460)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	36,367	54,429	90,796	409,284
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(346,934)	(30,295)	(377,229)	401,742
Transfers between funds	7	19,546	(19,546)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(327,388)	(49,842)	(377,230)	401,742
Total funds brought forward		8,321,170	1,072,488	9,393,658	8,991,916
Total funds carried forward		7,993,782	1,022,646	9,016,428	9,393,658

21. Capital commitments

There was no future capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements at 31 December 2021 and 31 December 2020.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

England & Wales - Charity number 224571

Accounts

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT & FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

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THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Reference and administrative details

Registered charity name	The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities
Working charity name	Central England Quakers (CEQ)
Charity registration number	224571
Area meeting office	40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
The Trustees	Anne Austin Christine Bagnall (appointed September 2020) Patricia Bradbury James Green Judith Jenner (Clerk) Janet Hilken (released July 2020) John Kimberley Robert Morris Anthony Pegler Gillian Smith Jill Stow Sue Thompson Peter Ullathorne Fiona Waterhouse (appointed September 2020, released April 2021)
Auditors	BSN Chartered Accountants 3B Swallowfield Courtyard Wolverhampton Road Oldbury, West Midlands B69 2JG
Nominee for Land	Friends Trusts Limited 173-177 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ
Nominee for Investment	Rathbone Greenbank Investments 10 Queens Square Bristol BS1 4NT
Bankers	CAF Bank Limited, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4JQ Lloyds TSB Bank Plc, PO Box 908, 125 Colmore Row, Birmingham B3 2QD
Solicitors	Veale Wasbrough Vizards 3 Brindley Place, Birmingham B1 2JB

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

A Introduction

The trustees are pleased to present their report together with the consolidated financial statements of the charity and its subsidiary (together "the group") for the year ended 31 December 2020. The report aims to summarise the activities, work and key events for the Area Meeting ("AM") and its Local Meetings ("LMs"). The aim is also to explain the role of the trustees and their relationship with the Area Meeting which is a worshipping community seeking to live, as individuals and as a community, in accordance with Quaker values and testimonies which are deeply held and long-standing.

The financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011 and Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to charities preparing their accounts in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standards applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102).

B Structure, management and governance

The Religious Society of Friends in Britain is a Christian denomination founded in the seventeenth century.

The Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain is the final constitutional authority for the Society. Its membership consists of all those who belong to the Area Meetings in Great Britain. Central England Area Quaker Meeting is one of 70 constituent Area Meetings established for the advancement of religious and other charitable purposes which derive from and bear witness to the principles and practices of the Religious Society of Friends. The principal activity of the Area Meeting is the holding of Meetings for Worship which are open to all who wish to attend in its Local Meetings, together with the other Branches and related projects which support the charity's objects in an area roughly bounded by Walsall, Warwick and Stourbridge and includes the Birmingham and Coventry conurbations. There is an office and paid secretary in Bull Street Meeting House in the centre of Birmingham.

On 16 March 2009 the Charity Commission granted the Area Meeting a new scheme uniting the former registered and excepted parts of the charity, governing the charities identified in the scheme, to be known together as The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities, registered charity number 224571. The charity's working name is Central England Quakers ("CEQ"). There are three constituent charities within the overall scheme (excluding those that have been removed from the register), one of which is the Area Meeting:

Central England Area Quaker Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends	224571-8
Bull Street Meeting House and Burial Ground	224571-3
West Birmingham Friends Halls	224571-6

Quaker faith is rooted in the belief of living our lives according to our spiritual experience. This is the basis of Quaker testimonies to peace, truth, simplicity, equality and sustainability, which guide Quaker behaviour, work and witness. Some of this work and witness is undertaken by the 15 Local Meetings, and some by 7 Branches – projects or committees set up for specific areas of work related to the testimonies. The financial statements incorporate the affairs of the following Local Meetings ("LMs") and Branches:

Local Meetings

Barnt Green and Redditch
Bournville
Bull Street
Cotteridge
Coventry
Edgbaston
Hall Green
Hartshill
Kings Heath
Selly Oak
Solihull
Stourbridge
Sutton Coldfield
Walsall
Warwick

Branches

West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers)
Quaker Christmas Parcels Committee
Community Justice Group
Junior Young Friends
Northfield Development Committee
Peace Committee
Peace Hub

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

The charity's Governing Document defines the way it is organised and managed.

A key part of the way that Quakers conduct their affairs is the "Quaker Business Method" and applies to all Quaker business meetings and has been followed almost unchanged for over 350 years. The meetings begin in silence as we wait for the promptings of the Spirit. The clerk is responsible for the agenda and the conduct of the meeting, and is the servant of the meeting, taking no part in the discussion, but listening to contributions and discerning the sense of the meeting. Quakers do not vote, they discern what is the right decision for the meeting. The decision/agreement is recorded by means of a Minute and Minutes are written and agreed in session after each item. This is quite different to the conduct of secular business meetings, with the chairperson in a leadership role.

Local Meetings and Branches are branches of the charity, under the care of CEQ trustees. They have their own committees, treasurers and bank accounts, and the relationship between the LMs/Branches and trustees is set out in a Memorandum of Understanding ("MoU") which all LMs and Branches are required to sign. The MoU gives delegated authority to the LMs/Branches, subject to agreed policies and procedures. Each LM, Branch and committee within the Area Meeting has a "Link Trustee" to whom they can turn for advice and guidance.

Trustees are appointed by Area Meeting, on the basis of nominations proposed by the CEQ Nominations Committee. (This process is a key part of the Quaker Business Method, and the CEQ Nominations Committee is responsible for considering all vacancies for voluntary roles, and for recommending "names" to area meeting. These "names" are then appointed or declined at the next area business meeting). In line with Quaker practice, trustees are appointed for a three-year term, which can be extended for a second "triennium" by mutual agreement between the trustee and Area Meeting. Only in exceptional circumstances do trustees serve a third term.

New trustees receive a detailed induction "briefing" and are given the opportunity to attend a weekend training course for trustees at the Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

In the Quaker tradition, decisions about policies, charitable activities and priorities are taken by the members of the Area Meeting at regular business meetings, and not by the charity's trustees who provide advice and guidance and take responsibility for the statutory and legal duties of the charity. Area business meetings are open to all members of the Area Meeting, and Local Meetings appoint representatives to ensure effective representation. All Local Meetings receive minutes of the business meetings and can comment freely on the work of CEQ.

In 2020 Area Meeting met 8 times for business. The first two meetings (in January and March) were held in Meeting Houses, but the other 6 were held by video-conferencing, due to the COVID-19 restrictions. Reports were received from trustees and from some Area Meeting Branches and committees: Peace Hub, Quaker Christmas Parcels Committee, Outreach Committee and the Low Carbon Commitment Forum which was renamed West Midlands Quaker Climate Emergency Action. A report was given by a "sister charity", the Charities of Susanna Cole and Others. Reports were also received from representatives to committees and groups that are part of Britain Yearly Meeting. The number of reports received in 2020 was far fewer than usual due to the restrictions on activities and events imposed by the pandemic.

Finally, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a professional Quaker owned and managed conference centre located at Bull Steet Friends Meeting House, is a wholly owned subsidiary of CEQ. Directors are appointed by CEQ Area Meeting; there are at least two CEQ trustee Directors and at least four non-trustee Directors. The strategic vision for Priory Rooms is described in a "Purpose and Principles" document, and the relationship between the company and CEQ trustees is set out in a detailed Management Agreement. Both of these documents were reviewed and revised in 2019.

Membership

The members of the Area Meeting are those persons whose names are for the time being recorded in the official register maintained in accordance with Quaker Faith and Practice ("QFP") of Britain Yearly Meeting. At 31 December 2020 membership of the Area Meeting comprised 456 members (3 more than 2019). There were 235 recorded adult attenders (1 more than 2019) and 46 recorded children (same as 2019).

C Purposes, activities, and performance

Worship is our response to an awareness of God. We can worship alone, but when we join with others in expectant waiting we may discover a deeper sense of God's presence. We seek a gathered stillness in our Meetings for Worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us. (Advices & Queries 8)

The Meeting for Worship is our core purpose and the centre from which all our activities flow. On Sundays, Friends (a name commonly used by Quakers) meet to worship regularly in one of our 13 Meeting Houses or in a rented

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

room. They gather in silence and wait on the spirit. There is the quiet presence of an elder but no leader, each person is responsible for the right holding of the worship. The community is empowered and led by the spirit. When there is a sense of unity those present experience a gathered meeting. For newcomers experiencing this for the first time there is an overwhelming feeling of being surrounded by love. It is impossible to describe, and this mystery is at the heart of our worship. Meeting together has always been an important element of belonging to the Society of Friends. In 2020 places of worship were closed or had access limited by social distancing rules; the country was dominated by personal and government reactions to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Friends have worshipped together, often in a Meeting House, for centuries in the case of Warwick and Stourbridge. There is nothing sacred or holy about the building, but it is for many a symbol of our community.

Some Friends were quick to respond to the sudden changes because they were already using Zoom for meetings and events, while others found the transition to a virtual meeting quite challenging. Some Friends with no access to Wi-Fi, a computer, or smart phone found it impossible, others were affected psychologically.

Many Local Meetings quickly established regular Meetings for Worship on Zoom, bringing the community together on a computer screen with each person in a little square box. But it did mean they were able to see each other's faces and feel they were in their presence for an hour of worship. Friends were able to join a virtual Meeting for Worship from around the world. Those who had moved away could join the community in worship, and it enabled meetings to be more inclusive of frailer and less mobile members. There were some advantages.

Those unable to meet virtually sat quietly in their own homes at the usual time, knowing others were gathered in worship. In summer when regulations were eased, many Friends continued to self-isolate, some Meetings experimented with blended worship (in person and on Zoom). During the summer, some Coventry Friends met outdoors in a local park, in the Meeting House garden or walking in an open space. The variety was enriching but led to a less cohesive meeting. Children's Meeting at Cotteridge met in the local park, and in September there was an all-age Meeting for Worship in the Woodbrooke garden. Worshipping outdoors was a lovely experience during the pandemic, with no computer screens, just social distancing.

A small group continued to meet throughout the year managing the social distancing and Covid restrictions at one Meeting House unable to use Zoom. Quaker worship has one advantage in a pandemic, no one needs to speak or sing hymns, and everyone sits quietly.

Some Local Meetings struggled to continue, and Edgbaston asked to be laid down in the summer. After a period of consultation Area Meeting agreed it could be laid down and Edgbaston Friends joined other Meetings for Worship. By the end of the year two more Local Meetings indicated that they were struggling to continue, and these Friends are being supported by trustees in 2021, awaiting discernment on the right way to proceed.

Caring for each other

Each Local Meeting provides pastoral care and support, and Meetings developed their own systems for doing this during the pandemic, which was a priority for the pastoral care teams. Many Meetings arranged weekday events for Friends to meet up on Zoom and included meeting regularly for coffee or lunch, quiz sessions, study groups, book clubs, singing together and bible study.

These Zoom meetings were easy for many to manage, however not all Friends were able to join in. The pastoral care teams were aware that some Friends would be feeling cut off from meeting and had to ensure that they kept in touch and shared this within the meeting. Warwick had a Wheel of Friendship so that each Friend was in contact with at least two others, there was also a regular newsletter. Some made doorstep visits, delivering provisions to self-isolating Friends. The telephone was used more frequently to keep in touch and Selly Oak, using another digital platform, set up a Whatsapp group for communication and keeping in touch with each other. Many Meetings used Zoom breakout rooms after Meeting for Worship, to chat and catch up, which proved very beneficial.

There were unplanned consequences to the changes. Some members of pastoral care teams and elders were unable to manage the transition to virtual meetings and asked to be released from service.

Some Meetings hold regular Meetings for Worship for support and healing, and Sutton Coldfield was able to continue meeting virtually during lockdown and then in person when restrictions eased.

The life of the Meeting - inward looking

The community worships together and takes on its own life. There are many opportunities for small interest groups to meet, explore topics and develop friendships. These are the things that bind individuals into a community of Friends. This strengthens the Meeting, making it attractive to enquirers as well as supporting each other. In pre-Covid times it was easy to organise study groups, bible study, spiritual journey groups, fund raising projects, or a

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

weekend away, but when activities and meeting up were not allowed many managed to meet virtually. 2020 was the year of Black Lives Matter and Friends were involved in a variety of ways including sessions learning about white privilege and racial justice. Nationally, Friends were asked to look more carefully at these issues. Bournville Local Meeting organised a series of sessions on the booklet *Race and Privilege in Europe* (QCEA) inviting Friends from neighbouring Meetings to join them.

Friends at Warwick discussed Tom Shakespeare's 2020 Swarthmore lecture "*A Friendly offering of Hope*", and Solihull Friends studied Chapter 2 of Quaker Faith & Practice approaches to God and Worship. Some Meetings joined with other churches to explore aspects of our faith.

The regular business of the Meeting continued and Friends found that these virtual meetings for business were well attended. Coventry continued their work on making the Meeting House more accessible and the design group, in consultation with Friends, made headway on the plans to install a lift to the first-floor meeting room.

Our community includes children and young people and during lockdown some Local Meetings held virtual sessions. Cotteridge children's committee organised weekly Zoom meetings for their children and parents. Both adults and children discovered lots of new presentation skills, and the children shared the planning and delivery of the sessions which included quizzes, making things, origami, telling stories, writing poems and even a 'bake off', by special request. Relief came when restrictions were eased, and the group could meet in the local park and hold sessions outdoors. These were more popular than virtual meetings.

Stourbridge "Rainbows" children's group met monthly in a breakout room during Meeting for Worship, and included talking about nature, refugees, and even making pancakes. Selly Oak Friends started a toddler group in September before Meeting for Worship and this proved popular. The older children met virtually and also met outside, litter picking and other activities, when restrictions were lifted. The Area Meeting youth group, which attracts young people from four Local Meetings, continued on Zoom and face to face when allowed.

Friends continued their concern for the environment and during lockdown noted that not needing to travel to Meeting for Worship and committee meetings was a real benefit. Due to restrictions in overseas travel fewer aeroplanes were flying and more people were cycling, whilst restricted shopping and closed Meeting Houses reduced energy use.

The restrictions brought with them an increased use of plastic and throw away items. So, many Friends produced reusable face masks to give to voluntary groups working at the food bank and community garden as well as for the Meeting, instead of the disposable ones. At Hall Green they set an environmentally friendly cleaning policy with no plastic PPE or throw away wipes. Warwick Meeting completed their garden project and are planting native species which attract wildlife.

World Earth Day was celebrated by many Friends and some attended a Webinar. The Peace Hub took climate emergency as one of its themes *A Burning Issue* which built on the Climate Emergency declarations in 2019.

Witness of the Meeting - outward looking

We believe that our actions speak louder than words. Over the years Local Meetings have developed relationships with a particular local or international project. Friends provide support in many ways which arise from our testimonies to peace, truth, justice, integrity, sustainability and simplicity. During the pandemic Friends continued to raise funds and give practical support. Special collections at Stourbridge Meeting doubled, and the Meeting also supports Palestinian families living in Seir and a project teaching people to make re-usable sanitary pads in Uganda.

During the pandemic people lost their jobs, children were not at school and there was an even greater demand on food banks. Friends joined with other churches to collect and distribute food to those in need. Much of the work done by volunteers.

Asylum seekers have been supported, either directly by a Meeting, or through individual Friends volunteering for the Befriender programme in Birmingham. The Peace Hub took the theme *Be the Friendly Face of Brum* contrasting the positive impacts that people arriving in our community have brought with the 'hostile environment' they face.

Hall Green Local Meeting joined with Churches Together Star window display at Christmas. Friends prepared a Quaker Star window that focused on Quaker peace work in the context of supporting refugees.

Jai Jagat 2020 UK was supported by the Area Meeting Peace Committee and Local Meetings during the year and some events were able to happen despite the restrictions. An Indian meal was shared (on Zoom) to raise funds, raising awareness of the Jai Jagat 2020 concerns of the Climate Emergency, on food production, sustainability and our relationship to the land. The Peace Hub and other Friends took part in a protest walk to Tyseley Incinerator with Footsteps (Faiths for a Low Carbon Future) from Birmingham Council of Faith.

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Despite lockdown restrictions Quakers were able to take part in other protests including Black Lives Matter, Extinction Rebellion, and activities to mark Anti-slavery Day in October. Modern slavery was one of the themes the Peace Hub covered in partnership with the Medaille Trust, not just talking, but taking action.

The long-established Christmas parcels for families of prisoners project had to be done differently in 2020. Social distancing rules meant that packing over 1,000 parcels could not be done, however, an alternative food voucher scheme was put into place and Probation Officers used the vouchers to buy food which was distributed to families known to the Probation Service. With ingenuity a way was found.

Peacemakers staff were challenged when working in schools came to an abrupt halt with lockdown. They found ways of creating relevant and safe ways to deliver the training which will allow for a creative and flexible way to deliver their programmes into the future, tailoring games and activities to fit the constraints, and keeping alive the very real need to build community and social and emotional learning in these difficult times.

The pandemic has allowed Quakers to adapt the ways we worship together, care for each other, and continue our work in the local community with our partner organisations. We found we were working at a slower pace allowing the spirit to move amongst us.

D Performance and monitoring

Trustees are responsible for monitoring the performance of the charity and managing its many administrative activities. In January 2020 there were 12 serving trustees. During the year two new trustees were appointed and one released, so there were 13 trustees serving in December. Trustees met four times in 2020, in March, June, September and November and two additional meetings were held in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, in April and October.

Oversight of and support for Local Meetings and Branches is provided by "Link Trustees", and reports from Link Trustees are received at each meeting of trustees.

Trustees report regularly to the Area Meeting business meetings, to keep members of the Area Meeting informed and to seek discernment of, and approval to, key policy decisions. In 2020 trustees reported to/consulted Area Meeting on six occasions: -

- March 2020 – report on the work of trustees in 2019, and request for approval from Area Meeting to the transfer of Kings Heath Meeting House from South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust to CEQ (agreed)
- June 2020 – request for approval from Area Meeting to a grant of £50,000 from the Selly Wood House Fund to the Woodlands Quaker Home Resident's Support Fund (agreed)
- July 2020 – briefing on a proposal to employ a Principal Officer for the Area Meeting
- September 2020 - request for approval to the Principal Officer proposal (agreed)
- October 2020 – request for approval from Area Meeting to changes to the charity's Governing Document (primarily to permit trustees to meet and make decisions by video-conferencing, but with some other minor updating). At the same Area Meeting Trustees Finance Committee ran a workshop titled "*Understanding Area Meeting Finances*". Also, in October the 2019 CEQ Report & Accounts were tabled, and an illustrated summary of the Report and Accounts "*Central England Quakers in 2019*" was widely distributed. Area Meeting was informed of the Service Agreement with the Priory Rooms to provide management services for trustees, and the recruitment of the Principal Officer was put on hold.
- November 2020 – presentation given to Friends on the central funds' forecasts for 2020 and budget proposals for 2021, and approval by Area Meeting of the 2021 budgets.

Much of the trustee work is undertaken by five trustee Service Committees: -

1. Finance
2. Property
3. Employment
4. Records Advisory
5. Governance & Compliance

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

The members of the committees 1-4 are appointed by Area Meeting, and need not be trustees, though the terms of reference for each committee specify a minimum number of trustee members. Members of the Governance & Compliance Committee are all trustees and appointed by trustees.

1 Finance

The Trustees Finance Committee consists of a "central treasurer team" each member of which has a designated role, together with a clerk and one member without an assigned role.

The team comprises

- General Fund Treasurer
- Treasurer to Trustees (ex-officio)
- Administration Treasurer
- Investment Treasurer
- Contribution Schedule Treasurer
- Local Meeting Support
- Finance Administrator (ex-officio)

The clerk to Finance Committee fulfils the role of Area Meeting Treasurer (an appointment required by the CEQ Governing Document).

Accounts and budgets

Management Accounts (receipts and payments) for 6 centrally-managed funds are issued quarterly and monitored by Finance Committee. For the first three quarters actual figures are compared with the budget for the year, but at the end of the third quarter a forecast is published for the fourth quarter (and full year), and over the final quarter actuals are compared with forecast.

For the 2019 CEQ Report and Accounts, all Local Meetings and Branches submitted their examined accounts by the 31 March 2020 deadline (for the fifth year running). The external audit of the accounts was undertaken, with a satisfactory outcome. The 2019 CEQ Report and Accounts were approved by trustees (and submitted to the Charity Commission) in September 2020.

In November 2020 the Annual Briefing for treasurers and examiners was held by video-conferencing, and all Local Meetings and Branches were represented. This annual briefing advises local treasurers of any changes to policies or procedures, and any changes to reporting requirements for the forthcoming year-end. A new Handbook for CEQ treasurers, designed to improve the support and training given to new treasurers, was launched at this meeting.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic

The pandemic impacted CEQ finances in three ways: -

a) Central Funds:

Rent "holidays" offered to tenants of investment properties	£14,688
Additional grant support to the "Peacemakers" Branch	£33,079 (£20k of which from Black Country Fund)
Covid signage and other additional expenditure	£4,375
Offset by Birmingham City Council grant	<u>(£10,000)</u>
Net additional expenditure	£42,142

b) Local Meeting Funds

Due to the closure of Meeting Houses during lockdown, the letting of rooms to local groups was seriously affected during 2020 (and has continued into the first quarter of 2021). The loss of room hire income was offset to a minor extent by savings in Meeting House overheads (e.g. utilities, cleaning, wages). The net impact across the Area Meeting has been estimated at £111,000. This loss will be funded from the Local Meetings' own reserves.

c) Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Ltd.

The Priory Rooms Conference Centre was forced to close for much of the year, with a significant impact on sales revenue. The trading loss for 2020 was just over £100,000. This will have a major impact on the CEQ charity's finances in 2021, as the annual gift to the charity from Priory Rooms in 2021 will be nil (compared with £120,000 in 2020).

The outlook for 2021 is considered in section E (Future Plans)

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

Investment Policy and performance

CEQ has three categories of investments (excluding investment properties, described in Note 12 to the Accounts):

- *Central investment portfolios* – these comprise the Building Fund and General Fund investments. During 2020 the centrally-held investments increased by 6%, and despite the sale of £48,000 of Building Fund investments (to fund building projects) the combined portfolio value at 31 December 2020 was close to the 1 January opening value at £690,892.
- *Trustee Reserve Funds* - five separate funds, four of which have arisen from the historical proceeds of sale of land or properties (described in Notes 17 and 18 to the accounts) are invested in CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund (income units). This fund is managed by CCLA and monitored by the Finance Committee. During 2020 the CCLA fund unit price increased by 6%, and the combined value of the four Reserve Funds at 31 December 2020 was £466,550. The fifth Reserve Fund is the Selly Wood House Fund, which is invested in CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund (accumulation units) which is described in Note 18 to the Accounts. During the year £150,000 of this fund was sold to provide grants to two “sister charities” providing care for elderly people, Old People’s Fund Trust (£100,000) and the Woodlands Quaker Home (£50,000). The residual balance at 31 December 2020 was £193,688.
- *Local Meeting and Branch Investments* - some (but not all) Local Meetings and Branches hold investments which form part of their individual reserves. These funds are managed by the LMs/Branches themselves. In many cases the investments are in professionally managed unit trusts, but in the case of independently managed portfolios, investment decisions are generally based on professional advice, via a nominated broker. Encouragement has been given to Local Meetings to invest “spare cash” in the CCLA COIF Ethical Investment Fund, recognising that money held in bank accounts currently earns little or no interest.

Reserves policy and performance

The reserves policy for the Area Meeting’s central funds, was first approved by trustees in April 2009. It is regularly reviewed and was further revised in 2020. The aim of the policy is twofold:

- to ensure that the charity has adequate funds to undertake its charitable activities and protect itself from fluctuations in income or expenditure; and
- to reassure CEQ members and the public that it is using its income for charitable work, and not accumulating excessive reserves.

The policy sets limits for funds held as investments and cash held in bank accounts, taking due account of cash flow fluctuations, income generation from capital, and protection from potential financial risks. It is used as the basis of all budgeting and spending reviews and makes an important contribution to the good governance of the charity.

Most Local Meetings and Branches carry some reserves of their own to cover day-to-day needs, and for property maintenance, also to protect the remuneration of employees where appropriate. In November 2015 guidelines were issued by Finance Committee to Local Meetings and Branches to enable them to develop their own policies, and all Local Meetings and Branches are encouraged to develop individual reserves policies, using these guidelines.

Specific reserves policies for each central fund (see further details in Notes 17 and 18 for the performance of restricted and designated funds) are as follows:

- *General and Trustee Funds (Unrestricted)* - These central funds are used to manage the overall charity’s objectives and encompass a number of individual funds and purposes. The reserves policy for these funds is summarised in a table below.
- *Local Meetings and Branches (Restricted and Designated)* – All Local Meetings and Branches should cover their own financial risks as per the charity’s Memorandum of Understanding.
- *Building Fund investments (Restricted)* – Income from the investments is needed to cover annual grants to Local Meetings to avoid using capital. Average grants are assumed as c. £12,000 per annum with an assumed investment yield of 2.5%. Therefore, target value is £480,000 minimum (value at 31 December 2020: £477,925).
- *Building Fund bank account (designated)* is used to support everyday grants and cash flow loans to Local Meetings to cover their building repairs and maintenance. A minimum cash balance of £30,000 is set for this reserve (value at 31 December 2020: £69,911, but this includes a £40,000 cash contribution from South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust – see property section below – which will be carried forward to 2021).

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

- *Trustee Reserve Funds (Restricted and Designated)* – These (historical) funds with income mandated to Local Meetings are separately identified (see Notes 17 and 18). Apart from the Sellywood House Fund (see above), there are no plans to expend the capital.
- *Black Country Fund (Designated)* – The Black Country Fund will continue to receive income from the Trustee Reserve Fund of c. £9,000 per annum with no target level of reserves to be held.
- *Redditch Building Fund* – This fund was established to make repairs and improvements to Redditch Meeting House (which is no longer used for Meetings for Worship and is currently an investment property). There is no income source, and if and when it is depleted the Trustee Fund will be used for ongoing expenditure.

Table: Reserves policy for Trustee and General Funds

Fund/Criteria	Policy	Target Values	Actual Values 31 Dec 2020
General Fund bank account/ General Fund commitments	Budget should be balanced and capital should not be used for operational expenditure	£30,000	£34,918
General Fund Reserve/ Unforeseen expenditure	Maintain a General Fund Reserve (established in 2013 from the proceeds of Trustee Reserve Funds)	£25,000	£24,788
General Fund Investments/ to cover exceptional unforeseen expenditure and provide adequate investment income	Investments to be equivalent to between 6 – 12 months general fund expenditure	£100,000	£112,967
General Fund/ contingency to cover a major financial disaster affecting a Local Meeting or Branch	Contingency investment fund in addition to unforeseen expenditure above	£100,000	£100,000
Trustee Fund bank account/	Protection for general cash flow, salary payments and contingency for unforeseen repairs	Minimum £60,000 in total	£58,128

Other Financial activities and issues

The Contribution Schedule continues to be supported by individual Friends, and the total funds distributed to beneficiaries in 2020 was £56,196. This represents a decrease of 4% on the previous year.

One of trustees' tasks is to provide Minutes of Authority for Local Meetings or Branches that are opening bank accounts or investment accounts and several such Minutes were produced during the year. Trustees also assist Local Meetings with completing applications to open new bank accounts or purchase investments.

Performance of the trading subsidiary (Priory Rooms)

After a record year in 2019, with £120,000 gifted to the Area Meeting trustees, Priory Rooms started 2020 on an optimistic note, with sales and profit levels remaining high. However, the imposition of Government Covid-19 restrictions in March saw a complete cessation of the activity. Apart from staff kept active to ensure the continuity of the business, operations staff were furloughed on full pay for the first lockdown. Limited opening over the summer period meant that costs were incurred in preparation and training in Covid-safe procedures, but the second set of restrictions coming into force locally in September forced a second closure which continued into 2021. Again, most staff were furloughed. Despite the government financial support for salaries, general costs and rates, the ongoing unavoidable costs meant that the final result was a loss after tax of some £107,000. The closure has

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

continued until May (although some limited activities have been resumed) and the outlook for bookings in the latter part of the year remains uncertain.

Grants policy

The Area Meeting is not a grant-making charity and the items referred to as grants mostly consist of the gifts (from central funds and Local Meetings) to the charity's parent body, Britain Yearly Meeting, contributions to other Quaker work, donations to non-Quaker charities (mainly by Local Meetings acting under concern) and subscriptions to ecumenical bodies of which CEQ is a member.

In 2020 the following donations were made from charitable funds to external beneficiaries: -

	£
Overseas beneficiaries	Nil
Non-CEQ Quaker charities	205,797 *
Britain Yearly Meeting	43,469
Non-Quaker charities	25,370
Non-charities	<u>450</u>
TOTAL	275,086

* includes £150,000 grants to two "sister charities" (see above) and a £41,500 donation to ecobirmingham (formerly a CEQ Branch but from July 2018 an independent CIO supported by CEQ).

The funds used for these purposes derive from members' donations and investment income and not from the general public. All of the donations (as listed above) were approved at a formal business meeting, and recorded by Minute.

Going concern

The trustees are of the view that the charity is a going concern, the evidence for which is as follows:

All of the key funds held by the charity are overall above target levels, as defined in the Reserves Policy. Principal sources of income are the rents from investment properties, donations from members and the hire of rooms. The rent income is underpinned by the length and stability of the leases, and donations from members have been stable for many years, with no known risk of any significant reduction.

The impact of the Covid-19 pandemic (see above) will have a significant impact on the charity's finances (notably room hire income) in 2021, and possibly 2022, but there are sufficient reserves to support the charity through this period.

The risks faced by the charity are well understood, with extensive mitigation measures in place. Specific financial risks are incorporated in the reserves policy.

With the exception of one of its Branches, the charity is not dependent on external funding or fundraising for its income, and the relatively small scale of the activities limits the risks associated with this Branch.

Property (repair and maintenance) risks are mitigated by the regular (quinquennial) building surveys undertaken, and by the comprehensive insurance cover that is in place. Major unforeseen expenditure on property is protected by the substantial (c. £500,000) central Building Fund held in reserve.

2 Property

A major task for Property Committee in 2020 was managing the closing and subsequent re-opening of Meeting Houses due to Covid-19 restrictions. A "C19 project team" was established in June 2020, under the auspices of Property Committee, but with representation from Employment Committee and Priory Rooms, to manage the process of re-opening Meeting Houses (and the subsequent second closure prompted by the second lockdown).

The project team's remit included: -

- Issuing regular bulletins containing guidance to Local Meetings (5 issued between June and September)
- Monitoring and communicating guidance from government, Britain Yearly Meeting and other sources
- Providing guidance on risk assessments, hygiene, cleaning, amendments to room hire agreements
- Ensuring the safety of staff and volunteers
- Ensuring Local Meeting compliance with insurance requirements

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TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

- Purchase of signage for Meeting Houses (ordered locally, funded centrally)
- Assisting Meetings with the technology needed to support "blended meetings"

Link Trustees were given the responsibility of checking that their linked Meeting Houses were re-opened in a Covid-19 compliant manner.

Part of Property Committee's work is allocated to three "working groups" responsible for property management and compliance ("PMC"), investment properties and Bull Street Premises.

PMC's work covers: -

- Distribution of Annual Property Questionnaires to all Local Meetings with properties (not required in 2020 due to the Quinquennial Surveys)
- Arranging Quinquennial Surveys (implemented in 2020)
- Reviewing the property section of the "Memorandum of Understanding" (between Local Meetings and trustees) and monitoring compliance (completed in 2019, and scheduled for 2021)
- Managing the charity's insurance policies and obtaining building and contents valuations (planned for 2021)
- Developing a Lettings Policy and providing Local Meetings with a model hire agreement (both were reviewed and revised in 2018)
- Ensuring that risk assessments are undertaken annually and providing local Premises Committees with templates
- Promoting awareness of the CEQ Health & Safety Policy, and keeping the property sections of the policy under review
- Arranging and leading annual gatherings of local Premises Committee representatives. A very successful gathering was held in October 2019, but due to the pandemic it was not appropriate to arrange one in 2020.

The **investment properties group** is responsible for negotiating, managing and renewing leases for the various properties (see Note 12 for details), for arranging repairs for those properties for which CEQ is responsible (as landlord), and to arrange valuations of the properties every 5 years (undertaken/completed in December 2019).

The Bull Street properties (40 Bull Street – Meeting House and Priory Rooms Conference Centre, and 41 Bull Street – Peace Hub) are managed by the "**Bull Street Premises Group**" (BSPG) which draws its membership from CEQ trustees, Bull Street Local Meeting, Peace Hub and Priory Rooms directors & staff. Repairs, maintenance and improvements are funded from the Bull Street Fund (see Note 18). Expenditure in 2020 was £155,376, £126,371 of which was spent on the replacement of the heating and hot water system at the Meeting House and Priory Room Conference Centre. A decision has been made to capitalise £110,104 of this expenditure (see Note 11).

In 2020 the leasehold interest in the 1 Colmore Square property was sold by Legal & General UK Property Fund to Oval Properties 1201 Limited. The associated legal costs incurred by CEQ were met by the buyer.

Meeting House projects, and "Property Link Friends"

Each Meeting House has a member of the Trustees Property Committee assigned to liaise with the Local Meeting as "Property Link Friend" (PLF). PLFs report to the Committee on their linked properties at each committee meeting.

A number of Meeting House projects were undertaken in 2020, including: -

- Garden development project at Warwick Meeting House – this was commissioned in 2018 (and a grant from the Building Fund of £15,000 was awarded that year) but unfortunately the work was delayed by problems with the main contractor. Work started towards the end of 2019, and a further grant of £10,000 was awarded in February 2020.
- Repairs to part of a boundary wall at Hartshill Meeting House which collapsed in 2018. Rectification was delayed by a dispute with the neighbour over ownership, since resolved by means of a boundary agreement signed by both parties. The first phase of work was finally completed at the end of 2019 (with a grant from the Building Fund of £11,342, paid in March 2020). A second phase, funded by the Local Meeting from its own resources, was completed in May 2020.
- Ongoing planning for a major refurbishment of Coventry Meeting House, including the installation of a lift (grant from Building Fund of £11,400 to cover professional fees was awarded in November 2020).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

- Repairs to Bournville Meeting House following damage to a boundary wall caused by a vehicle (the subject of an insurance claim) - a short term "cash flow" loan of £8,000 was awarded in December 2020. *Note that this was the second incident involving damage to the property by a vehicle in two years.*
- Repairs to flat roof of Northfield Meeting House (a loan of £5,000 was awarded in April 2020)

Plans to improve the energy efficiency of Selly Oak Meeting House in 2020 were deferred due to the pandemic.

Total value of Building Fund grants in 2020 was £32,742, and there were two new loans totalling £13,000. Repayments of existing loans totalled £7,100.

Future of Edgbaston Meeting House: in July 2020 Area Meeting received a letter from the four role-holders at Edgbaston Local Meeting advising that the Meeting was no longer sustainable, and asking Area Meeting for guidance. Trustees and the Elders & Overseers Support Group were asked to liaise with each other, and with members of the Meeting, to explore possible ways forward. This led to the establishment of a joint working group, and the group reported back to Area Meeting in October. Area Meeting agreed that the Local Meeting should be "laid down" from 1 January 2021, and that trustees should take over the management of the property and assets of the Meeting. The working group was encouraged to develop the concept of an Edgbaston Quaker and Community Centre based at the Meeting House, and this project will become a key task for trustees in 2021.

Transfer of Kings Heath Meeting House: This Meeting House was owned by a separate charity, South Birmingham Friends Institute Trust (SBFIT), and was the only Meeting House occupied by a CEQ Local Meeting which CEQ did not own. Discussions between the trustees of CEQ and SBFIT commenced in 2019 with the aim of transferring the ownership from SBFIT to CEQ. Agreement in principle was reached before the end of 2019, and the transfer was formally approved by Area Meeting in March 2020. The transfer was completed in September 2020. SBFIT contributed of £40,000 to the CEQ Building Fund towards the upkeep of the building for a period of 10 years.

3 Employment

The employment committee held seven meetings during the year and continued to have oversight of the Area Meeting employees. During the lockdowns and restrictions imposed by the government the welfare of the staff was a primary concern. However, the committee also had to keep up to date with employment regulations and many policies were revised in the light of these changes. All policies are regularly reviewed and updated as required. In 2020 these included: Grievance Procedure; Recruitment, Selection and Appointment of Staff; Equalities Policy; Guidance on expense claims and the Expense Claim Form; Sickness Absence Policy and absence monitoring form. The revised policies were sent to both staff and line managers and posted on the CEQ website making them accessible. In 2020 a 24-hour telephone counselling service was set up for employees and their families, which was used and will continue to be available.

To ensure that staff contracts were fully compliant with the latest legislation, the HR firm Roots HR was contracted to help with this lengthy process. A model contract was produced and then each employee was consulted. It was finally completed in 2021.

The pandemic brought additional challenges. Introducing the new government scheme to pay 80% wages to staff unable to work during the lockdown was one of them. The Finance Administrator, responsible for the payroll, was able to set up the scheme online. The Employment Committee needed to prepare new contracts for staff wanting to be furloughed and contact each of them. Five members of the Peacemakers team and some Local Meeting staff joined the scheme. Changes in the scheme over the months were responded to.

Employees on furlough leave were paid their contractual salary to maintain goodwill, and when the lock-down was lifted they were ready to return to work. The committee had to pay particular attention to the welfare of staff during the pandemic, and some had to self-isolate. Guidance on risk assessments in the work place was given. The Peacemakers' director, the AM secretary, and the Peace Hub coordinator were able to work from home. Before they returned to their place of work a risk assessment had to be in place.

Early in the year the committee planned an Inclusion and Diversity training session for staff, as well as a session for line managers. Unfortunately, these events could not go ahead because of the lockdown.

4 Records Advisory

The year of 2020 has certainly been a year of stops and starts. The year started well with a meeting in January and a further meeting arranged for April. Work continued on the next accession which was arranged for 23 March. Unfortunately, Covid-19 lockdown occurred on the same day but in advance of this possibility, the transfer had been cancelled as was another arranged for January 2021. The lockdown meant that the committee could no longer

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

meet in person and no further work was undertaken on processing the records. They did, however, keep in touch with each other by email and had their first zoom meeting in October. Updates were sent to trustees. A number of Local Meeting records were received which were placed in the strong room. Enquiries regarding our records continued to be received and some of these could be answered. Other people were directed to the Central England Quakers archive website via the Library of Birmingham. Some enquiries will be followed up by the committee once the Library archives section is open. Even though the committee were not able to meet in person and carry on the processing work, it continued to have oversight of the records and deal with enquiries.

5 Governance and Compliance

Five trustees are members of this committee which met four times during the year. In 2020 the committee considered the following matters.

Safeguarding: The co-ordinators were invited to report to this committee in February and were able to share some of the feedback from the 2019 questionnaire the Area Meeting was asked to complete. It highlighted some of the weak points in our present system, including safer recruitment for some voluntary roles, regular training for the co-ordinators and safe keeping of safeguarding records. BYM has produced a new safeguarding policy and the co-ordinators have been looking through this and will advise trustees on its implementation. It will need to come to our Area Meeting for approval and there will be training for role holders and Local Meetings. The co-ordinators held two training sessions on Zoom for volunteers in Local Meetings to update them on current guidelines. The CEQ Safeguarding Link Trustee keeps in regular contact with the two safeguarding co-ordinators about issues of concern and reports regularly to trustees.

Governing Document: As a consequence of the lockdown, the Charity Commission advised charities to check the section of their Governing Document referring to the right holding of business meetings. Trustees discovered that changes should be made to the to take account of the use of virtual meetings for our routine business meetings. This was completed and all business meetings in the area meeting can be held virtually.

Memorandum of Understanding: This is the agreement between trustees and the Local Meetings and Branches to ensure that all legal requirements are being met financially, with the upkeep of the property, in employment practice, keeping and storing records and personal data, health & safety as well as safeguarding children and vulnerable adults. This is the assurance that the charity is working well and is compliant. The reports from all Local Meetings and Branches were received early in the year and checked by the service committees. Any non-compliance issues were followed up. The MoU is sent to Local Meetings and Branches every two years, and at the end of the year the committee started work on the 2021 version.

General Data Protection Regulation: Trustees oversee GDPR in the Area Meeting. The policies were put in place in 2018 and will be reviewed in 2021.

Management of risk: The Risk Register is kept up to date by each of the service committees and overseen by the Governance and Compliance committee. In 2020 the committee produced a Risk Management Policy which clarified the procedures. This was adopted by trustees. During the year the following key risks were identified.

a) *Loss of income as a result of a pandemic*

The trustees, Local Meetings and Branches each have their own reserves policies and these were tested this year because of the lockdown and restrictions on meeting. Government support was available and was applied for, the insurance companies lost a legal argument and claims for loss of income could be made. Trustees called two additional meetings in April and October in response to the lock down and the uncertainty of how the finances would be affected. At the routine meetings the effect on the Area Meeting, Local Meetings and Branches was monitored. However, the biggest financial loss was with Priory Rooms and this will affect the charity in 2021.

b) *Decrease in active membership*

The charity is heavily dependent on members to take on key roles and there are fewer Friends able to serve on the many trustees' committees. The Local Meetings have the same problem and finding treasurers and clerks is increasingly difficult. During 2020 three smaller Local Meetings were unable to continue as they were. In 2019 trustees decided to recruit an operations manager and in 2020, following an unsuccessful recruitment process, decided to recruit a principal officer. This will reduce the risks associated with overdependence on key volunteers. As a first step trustees have a service agreement with Priory Rooms directors to provide staff to manage the duties of the principal officer for an initial 6-month period.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

c) *Reputational damage*

The use of social media to promote a particular campaign have become more widely used, leading to a loss of control, and it is easy for Friends to set up Facebook pages which present distorted information. Also Friends can use the local press to publish articles presenting their own opinion in the name of Quakers. To reduce this risk the trustees have the support of the BYM media office. There was no policy for staff and volunteers using social media or the press. This needed to be produced.

d) *IT systems*

The use of home PCs, laptops, smart phones and tablets by volunteers is a recognised risk in the organisation, and with the need for staff working from home during the lockdown this risk increased. As well as drafting a new IT policy for staff a cloud storage system for the charity's shared documents was set up. These will be monitored. Local role holders continue to be encouraged to use generic email accounts for Quaker business.

e) *Compliance with legislation and regulation*

Trustees maintain policies covering all aspects of property, finance, employment as well as specific legislation for Covid-19 security, safeguarding children and vulnerable adults, GDPR, health and safety these are agreed by the Area Meeting and posted on the CEQ website. Compliance with policies by Local Meetings and Branches is reviewed every two years, via the Memorandum of Understanding. The Link Trustee and Property Link Friend liaise with them regularly to ensure they understand their responsibility.

f) *Maintenance and safety of CEQ properties*

Property management is overseen by Trustees Property Committee, with committee members assigned to individual Local Meetings as "Property Link Friends". In 2020 the detailed quinquennial survey of all properties was undertaken. This highlights where work on the property needs to be carried out and is followed up by the Local Meetings.

Risk Assessments (including the assessment of Fire Risks) are prepared by Local Meetings and Branches and reviewed annually. Financial support is available from the central Building Fund for major improvements or unforeseen major repairs to Meeting Houses. Guidance is given to Local Meetings by Property Committee on fire and emergency exit safety.

g) *Misappropriation or inaccurate recording of funds*

Internal fraud is an ever-present risk, but there are robust financial procedures in place. All Local Meeting and Branch annual accounts are examined prior to consolidation. Examiners are asked to complete an examination checklist, with a section enabling them to record any matters of concern. Management of central funds is overseen by Trustees Finance Committee. All online payments are subject to dual authorisation, and limits of authority for cheques are defined and controlled. Opening of (or changes to) bank accounts and applications for investments are subject to validation by two Trustees. The charity provides Local Meetings with guidelines on handling cash collections, and local procedures are checked as part of the annual examination of accounts.

h) *Cyber Fraud*

Most Local Meetings and Branches, as well as the trustees, use Internet banking, and there is always the risk of scams. To mitigate this risk there is regular training for treasurers which includes awareness raising. Dual authorisation for online payments is mandatory, and the person setting up the payment is required to send a copy of the invoice to the second authoriser, to verify that the payment is genuine.

E Future Plans

- 2020 has demonstrated how changes to plans for the future are sometimes beyond our control. Covid-19 is still with us, and the future seems more unpredictable. The plans based on uncertainty – how will the charity emerge from the unusual year?
- In 2021 Local Meetings will be able to make a financial claim from the insurance broker for Loss of Income.
- Covid-19 has had an impact on Local Meetings' ability to manage their property and finance. A new management system is being developed for four of the Meeting Houses. Setting up the Meeting House Management Group is the start of this new process.
- Many smaller Local Meetings are finding it impossible to fill the various roles and the Area Meeting is considering how to simplify the structures locally.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

TRUSTEES' REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020 (continued)

- Trustees will undertake a review of the charity's assets, especially property. This will include the use of Meeting Houses when there is no local meeting.
- In 2021 trustees will need to draw on reserves, in the region of £80,000. They will review the reserves policy towards the end of the year in light of pandemic.
- The Service Agreement with Priory Rooms will continue during 2021 and trustees will review their plans for recruiting a Principal Officer from the experience of having a substantial amount of the administrative work of the charity done by paid staff.
- The concern for Climate Justice is being highlighted in 2021 with the COP26 meeting in November in Glasgow. The Peace Hub, the Climate Emergency Action Group and Friends in Local Meetings are preparing various actions during 2021 to raise awareness of the climate emergency in the UK as well as the rest of the world.
- The MoU 2021 will be circulated to all Local Meetings and Branches, and the service committees will respond to the completed check lists as required to ensure compliance.
- The revised safeguarding children and vulnerable adults' policy and procedures will be presented to trustees and Area Meeting. When it is adopted, there will be training for the local safeguarding co-ordinators and adopted by the Local Meetings.
- The risk register will be updated in the light of the 2020 pandemic.

F Public benefit statement

The trustees consider they have complied with the duty in Section 17 of the Charities Act 2011 to have due regard to public benefit guidance published by the Charity Commission.

The charity makes available and provides the following to further its purposes for the public benefit:

- Regular holding of public Meetings for Worship.
- Provision of information about the Quaker way to "seekers", through courses, discussion, study groups and literature.
- Meeting Houses which are used by many different groups, when Covid restrictions permit, and are of value to the local community.
- Support for a Dance School, which leases Redditch Meeting House, and provides tuition for young people
- Information on energy-saving and lifestyle improvements through CEQ Climate Emergency Action Group.
- Training in mediation skills in schools and anti-bullying strategies, provided online by the West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (Peacemakers).
- Gifts of food for families in need, through the Quaker Christmas Parcels Project and involvement with foodbanks in local areas.
- Housing and care for elderly people, in partnership with other Quaker charities.
- Funding for overseas work and for witness in UK.
- Working with Interfaith and Ecumenical groups to further community cohesion and understanding

Trustees consider that the following in particular benefit from the charity's activities:

- All who are interested in the Religious Society of Friends, its worship, values, testimonies, business methods, projects and concerns.
- Members of CEQ, who are encouraged to participate actively in the work of the charity and its decision-making. Quakers have no paid clergy, and volunteers who are given training as required, and acquire knowledge and skills carry out much of the work.
- "Attenders" at Meetings for Worship, who are permitted to take an active part in many Quaker roles, and who may benefit as above.
- Local communities, which benefit from the use of Quaker Meeting Houses.
- Local councils, which may benefit from the use of Meeting Houses as polling stations and councillors' surgeries.
- Prisoners supported by Quaker prison chaplains, and Quakers involved in the criminal justice system.
- Asylum seekers, who are supported by various projects and through the work done on their behalf.
- Mental health patients in the Birmingham area, who benefit from the work of Quaker chaplains.
- Older people, through the provision of residential care.
- People interested in developing a more sustainable, low carbon lifestyle, through the Eco Church scheme and the services of ecobirmingham.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Trustees' responsibilities in relation to the financial statements

The charity trustees are responsible for preparing the trustees' annual report and the financial statements in accordance with applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

The law applicable to charities in England and Wales requires the charity trustees to prepare financial statements for each year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources and application of resources, including the income and expenditure, of the charitable group for that period.

In preparing these financial statements, the trustees are required to:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently;
- observe the methods and principles in the applicable Charities SORP;
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent;
- state whether applicable UK accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures that must be disclosed and explained in the financial statements; and
- prepare the financial statements on a going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume the charity will continue in operation.

The trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records that disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Charities Act 2011, the applicable Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations, and the provisions of the Governing Document. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and the group and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

The trustees are responsible for the maintenance and integrity of the corporate and financial information included on the charity's website. Legislation in the United Kingdom governing the preparation and dissemination of financial statements may differ from legislation in other jurisdictions.

Statement of information to the auditors

In so far as the trustees are aware at the time of approving our trustees' annual report:

- there is no relevant information, being information needed by the auditor in connection with preparing their report, of which the group's auditor is unaware; and
- the trustees, having made enquiries of fellow trustees and the group's auditor that they ought to have individually taken, have taken all steps that they ought to have taken as trustees in order to make themselves aware of any relevant audit information and to establish that the auditor is aware of that information.

The trustees' annual report was approved on 15 September 2021 and signed on behalf of the trustees by;

Judith Jenner)
) trustees
Robert Morris)

The financial statements were submitted to the Charity Commission on 16 September 2021 and to the BYM Recording Clerk's Office on 16 September 2021.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities and group for the year ended 31 December 2020 which comprise of the charity and group statement of financial activities, the charity and group statement of financial position, statement of cash flows and the related notes, including a summary of significant accounting policies. The financial reporting framework that has been applied in their preparation is applicable law and United Kingdom Accounting Standards, including FRS 102 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and Republic of Ireland' (United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice).

This report is made solely to the charity's members, as a body, in accordance with section 144 of the Charities Act 2011 and regulations made under section 154 of that Act. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the charity's members those matters we are required to state to them in an auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the charity and the charity's members as a body, for our audit work, for this report, or for the opinions we have formed. In our opinion the financial statements:

- give a true and fair view of the state of the group and charity's affairs as at 31 December 2019 and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including its income and expenditure, for the year then ended;
- have been properly prepared in accordance with United Kingdom Generally Accepted Accounting Practice;
- have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Charities Act 2011.

Basis for opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (UK) (ISAs (UK)) and applicable law. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of our report. We are independent of the charity in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to our audit of the financial statements in the UK, including the FRC's Ethical Standard, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Conclusions relating to going concern

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the ISAs (UK) require us to report to you where:

- the Trustee's use of the going concern basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements is not appropriate; or
- the Trustees have not disclosed in the financial statements any identified material uncertainties that may cast significant doubt about the charity's ability to continue to adopt the going concern basis of accounting for a period of at least twelve months from the date when the financial statements are authorised for issue.

Other information

The other information comprises the information included in the annual report, other than the financial statements and our auditor's report thereon. The Trustees are responsible for the other information. Our opinion on the financial statements does not cover the other information and, except to the extent otherwise explicitly stated in our report, we do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the financial statements, our responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If we identify such material inconsistencies or apparent material misstatements, we are required to determine whether there is a material misstatement in the financial statements or a material misstatement of the other information. If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact.

We have nothing to report in this regard.

Matters on which we are required to report by exception

In the light of the knowledge and understanding of the charity and its environment obtained in the course of the audit, we have not identified material misstatements in the Trustees' report.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

We have nothing to report in respect of the following matters in relation to which the Charities Act 2011 requires us to report to you if, in our opinion:

- the information given in the Trustees' report is inconsistent in any material respect with the financial statements; or
- certain disclosures of Trustee remuneration specified by law are not made; or
- adequate accounting records have not been kept by the parent charity; or
- returns adequate for our audit have not been received from Branches not visited by us; or
- the financial statements are not in agreement with the accounting records and returns; or
- we have not received all the information and explanations we require for our audit.

Responsibilities of Trustees

As explained more fully in the Trustees' responsibilities statement, the Trustees are responsible for the preparation of the financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view, and for such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In applying the financial reporting framework, the Trustees have made a number of subjective judgements, for example in respect of significant accounting estimates. In making such estimates, they have made assumptions and considered future events.

In preparing the financial statements, the Trustees are responsible for assessing the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the charity or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (UK) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

Irregularities, including fraud, are instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations. We design procedures in line with our responsibilities, outlined above, to detect material misstatements in respect of irregularities, including fraud. The extent to which our procedures are capable of detecting irregularities, including fraud is detailed below:

We have reviewed financial statement disclosures and tested these to supporting documentation to assess compliance with applicable laws and regulations. We have audited the risk of management override of controls, including through testing journal entries and other adjustments for appropriateness, and evaluating the business rationale of significant transactions outside the normal course of business. We have also made enquiries of entity staff in tax and compliance functions to identify any instances of non-compliance with laws and regulations.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

REPORT OF THE INDEPENDENT AUDITORS TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES (continued)

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (UK), we exercise professional judgment and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the Trustees.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Trustees' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the charity's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the charity to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

Philippa Hawkes CA (Senior Statutory Auditor)

For and on behalf of
BSN Associates Limited
Chartered Accountants & statutory auditor
3B Swallowfield Courtyard
Wolverhampton Road
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 2JG

15 September 2021

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	155,823	135,125	290,948	283,478
Charitable activities	59,869	20,082	79,951	238,384
Other trading activities	-	-	-	126,000
Investment Income	261,204	11,286	272,490	304,960
Other Income	57,490	2,327	59,817	15,583
Total income	534,385	168,820	703,205	968,405
Expenditure				
Cost of raising funds	(5,855)	(3,428)	(9,283)	(23,516)
Charitable activities	(802,687)	(250,116)	(1,052,803)	(960,096)
Other Expenses				
Total expenditure	(808,542)	(253,544)	(1,062,086)	(983,613)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	34,849	54,429	89,278	387,357
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers	(239,308)	(30,295)	(269,603)	372,149
Transfers between funds	19,546	(19,546)	-	-
Net movement in funds	(219,762)	(49,842)	(269,604)	372,149
Total funds brought forward	7,976,957	1,072,488	9,049,445	8,677,296
Total funds carried forward	7,757,195	1,022,646	8,779,841	9,049,445

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2020	Total 2019
	Note	£	£	£	£
Income					
Donations and legacies		155,823	135,125	290,948	283,478
Charitable activities		59,869	20,082	79,951	238,384
Other trading activities		188,942	-	188,942	715,657
Investment Income		263,179	11,286	274,465	310,816
Other Income		187,029	2,327	189,356	15,583
Total income	4	854,841	168,820	1,023,661	1,563,918
Expenditure					
Cost of raising funds	5	(408,977)	(3,428)	(412,405)	(587,646)
Charitable activities	6	(829,165)	(250,116)	(1,079,281)	(983,814)
Total expenditure		(1,238,142)	(253,544)	(1,491,686)	(1,571,460)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	9	36,367	54,429	90,796	409,284
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers		(346,934)	(30,295)	(377,229)	401,742
Transfers between funds	7	19,546	(19,546)	-	-
Net movement in funds		(327,388)	(49,842)	(377,230)	401,742
Total funds brought forward		8,321,170	1,072,488	9,393,658	8,991,916
Total funds carried forward		7,993,782	1,022,646	9,016,428	9,393,658

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

CHARITY AND CONSOLIDATED (GROUP) BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2020

	Note	Charity 2020	Charity 2019	Group 2020	Group 2019
		£	£	£	£
Fixed assets					
Tangible assets	11	1,579,967	1,549,239	1,622,576	1,612,342
Investments	12	6,385,509	6,507,696	6,462,988	6,656,910
Total fixed assets		7,965,476	8,056,935	8,085,564	8,269,252
Current assets					
Debtors	13	18,128	43,108	55,817	139,661
Cash at bank and in hand		825,979	1,022,015	962,838	1,147,469
Total current assets		844,107	1,065,123	1,018,655	1,287,130
Liabilities					
Creditors falling due within 1 year	14	(29,742)	(72,613)	(88,248)	(149,894)
Net current assets		814,365	992,510	930,407	1,137,236
Total assets less current liabilities		8,779,841	9,049,445	9,015,974	9,406,488
Creditors falling due after 1 year	14	-	-	-	(2,249)
Provisions	16	-	-	458	(10,581)
Net assets	19	8,779,841	9,049,445	9,016,428	9,393,658
Unrestricted		6,082,016	6,285,975	6,318,603	6,630,188
Restricted	17	1,022,646	1,072,488	1,022,646	1,072,488
Designated	18	1,675,180	1,690,982	1,675,180	1,690,982
Total funds		8,779,841	9,049,445	9,016,428	9,393,658

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 15 September 2021 and signed on their behalf by:

Judith Jenner	)	
	)	Trustees
Robert Morris	)	

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

GROUP STATEMENT OF CASH FLOW FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

	2020	2019
	Total Funds £	Total Funds £
Net movement in funds	(377,230)	401,742
Depreciation Charge	105,854	101,259
Dividends and interest	(274,465)	(81,884)
Losses/(gains) on investments	(56,946)	(409,284)
(Increase)/decrease in debtors	83,843	(31,076)
Increase/(decrease) in creditors and provisions	(74,934)	11,167
Net cash used in operating activities	(593,878)	(8,076)
Cash flows from investing activities:		
Dividends and interest received	274,465	81,884
Purchase of fixed assets	(116,088)	(20,429)
Net sale/(purchase) of investments	250,868	7,742
Net cash provided by investing activities	409,245	69,197
Cash flows from financing activities:		
Repayment of borrowing	-	18,200
Management of liquid resources		
Movement in short term deposits	50,321	(146,625)
Increase/(decrease) in cash in the year	(134,311)	(67,304)
Increase/(decrease) in short term deposits	(50,321)	146,625
Cash at bank and in hand	963,735	1,031,040
Short term deposits	183,734	37,109
Net funds brought forward	1,147,469	1,068,149
Cash at bank and in hand	829,424	963,735
Short term deposits	133,413	183,734
Net funds carried forward	962,838	1,147,469

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

1. General information

The charity is a registered charity in England and Wales and is unincorporated. The address of the area meeting office is: 40 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF.

2. Statement of compliance

These financial statements have been prepared in compliance with FRS 102, 'The Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the UK and the Republic of Ireland', the Statement of Recommended Practice applicable to the charities preparing their accounts in accordance with FRS 102 (Charities SORP (FRS 102)) and the Charities Act 2011.

3. Accounting policies

Basis of preparation and assessment of going concern

The financial statements incorporate the affairs of Central England Area Quaker Meeting and the Local Meetings and other Branches set out in note 21 to the financial statements. Transfers between the Local Meetings, the Branches and the Area Meeting are eliminated from income and expenditure. The financial statements also exclude those donations received by the Area Meeting and Local Meetings, which are paid over to various charities at the donors' requests.

The financial statements also incorporate, where applicable and where amounts are described as 'group', the affairs of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary.

The subsidiary, which is a limited company and not a charity has been consolidated on a line by line basis. Inter group balances have been eliminated on consolidation.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the entity.

Central England Quakers (CEQ) constitutes a public benefit entity as defined by FRS 102. Assets and liabilities are initially recognised at historical cost or transaction value unless otherwise stated in the relevant accounting policy notes.

The Trustees consider there are no material uncertainties about the charity's ability to continue as a going concern, as set out in their report.

Fund accounting

In order to differentiate the availability of funds they are categorised according to the following definitions:

- Unrestricted general funds are available for any purpose of the Charity.
- Designated funds represent amounts set aside for specific purposes but which remain at the discretion of the Area Meeting; and
- Restricted funds represent contributions, legacies and donations received earmarked by the testator or donor for specific purposes.

Income

All income is recognised once the charity has entitlement to the income, it is probable that the income will be received and the amount of income receivable can be measured reliably.

Voluntary income is recognised as above except where the income is subject to conditions that require a level of performance before the charity is entitled to the funds, when the income is deferred and not recognised until either those conditions are fully met, or the fulfilment of those conditions is wholly within the control of the charity and it is probable those conditions will be fulfilled in the reporting period.

Legacy gifts are recognised on a case by case basis following the grant of probate and when the charity has been notified of the amount and settlement date.

Investment income is recognised when receivable and is shown gross to include income tax recovered and recoverable. Other income is accounted for on the basis of amounts receivable for the year.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. Accounting policies (continued)

Donated services and facilities

Donated professional services or facilities are recognised as income when the charity has control over the item, any conditions associated with the donated item have been met, the receipt of economic benefit from the use by the charity of the item is probable and that economic benefit can be measured reliably. The charity benefits greatly from the involvement and enthusiastic support of its many members, in accordance with the Charities SORP (FRS 102), the general volunteer time of members is not recognised.

On receipt, donated professional services or facilities are recognised on the basis of the value of the gift to the charity which is the amount the charity would have been willing to pay to obtain services or facilities of equivalent economic benefit on the open market; a corresponding amount is then recognised in expenditure in the period of receipt.

Expenditure

Liabilities are recognised as expenditure as soon as there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to that expenditure, it is probable that settlement will be required and the amount of the obligation can be measured reliably.

All expenditure is accounted for on the accruals basis, inclusive of any value added tax that cannot be recovered.

Taxation

Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited is chargeable to corporation tax on its income and capital gains. Otherwise Central England Area Quaker Meeting is a charity and is exempt from taxation on income derived from its charitable activities. Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited provides for taxation deferred as a result of timing differences that have originated but not reversed at the balance sheet date. Unrelieved tax losses and other deferred tax assets are recognised to the extent that it is probable that they will be recovered against the reversal of deferred tax liabilities or other future taxable profits. Deferred tax is measured using the tax rates and laws that have been enacted or substantively enacted by the reporting date that are expected to apply to the reversal of the timing difference.

Tangible fixed assets

The charity owns a number of functional properties comprising Meeting Houses, wardens' accommodation and their contents, and other buildings used by CEQ Branches. These buildings are held in perpetuity for Meetings for Worship or other charitable activities, and contribute to the furtherance of the Central England Quaker's charitable objectives and are considered to be heritage assets under FRS 102. The heritage assets have been grouped together in the following categories:

Meeting Houses, Wardens' Accommodation and other buildings

There is no cost or accumulated depreciation recognised for these heritage assets, as allowable under Section 18 of FRS 102. Whilst it is believed that the market value, both at the time of acquisition and at the balance sheet date, was significantly in excess of £nil deemed cost and net book value, it is not possible to obtain a reliable estimate of the market value at either date. Conventional valuation techniques are not appropriate for the unique and historical nature of the assets. In addition, the Trustees consider it an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain valuations for all 16 properties and not befitting of the objectives of the charity.

Major expenditure on improvements to property at 40 Bull Street incurred during 1999 were capitalised and are being depreciated at 5% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. Expenditure on the conference centre in Bull Street is being depreciated at 2% per annum on cost from 1 January 2004. A replacement heating system for 40 Bull Street was installed during 2020 and is being depreciated at 10% per annum on cost from 1 November 2020. This has been included within the Refurbishment of Meeting House asset category in note 11.

Any developments or improvements to the building greater than £10,000 are capitalised at cost and depreciated over the improvement's useful economic life. Maintenance costs are charged to the SOFA in the period they are incurred.

Contents of Meeting Houses

A number of the Meeting Houses contents have also been recognised at £nil cost and £nil accumulated depreciation as it is impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's resources to value the specific items in the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents.

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

3. Accounting policies (continued)

The Trustees capitalise individual items of equipment costing £10,000 or more where there is a continuing economic value and a reliable measurement of cost or fair value is available. These assets are depreciated annually so as to write off the cost over their economic useful lives. In the subsidiary company equipment is capitalised where the asset has a continuing economic value.

Other fixed assets, which have been capitalised, are being depreciated at the following annual rates on cost:

Furniture and fittings	-	at varying rates on cost
Computer equipment	-	25% on cost
Heating and hot water system	-	10 years
Refurbishment of Meeting house	-	20 years
Conference Centre etc.	-	50 years

Investments

All investments are carried at their fair value. Investments in equities and fixed interest securities are all traded in quoted public markets, primarily the London Stock Exchange and fair value is equivalent to the market value. Holdings in common investment funds, unit trusts and open-ended investment companies are at bid price. The charity does not acquire put options, derivatives or other complex financial interests.

Investment properties are re-valued periodically or when changes in rental income necessitate revaluation. Fair value is generally open market value.

All gains and losses are taken to the Statement of Financial Activities as they arise.

Short term deposits comprise funds held in savings or deposit (rather than current) accounts which are surplus to immediate cash flow requirements and are classified as cash and cash equivalents.

Pension costs

The charity and its subsidiary contribute to defined contribution schemes for some of their employees. The pension cost represents the total amount payable to the schemes in the year. The pension cost is directly charged to funds with contributory employees.

Financial Instruments

The charity only has financial assets and financial liabilities of a kind that qualify as basic financial instruments. Basic financial instruments are initially recognised at transaction value and subsequently measured at their settlement value with the exception of bank loans which are subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method.

4. Income

The comparative amounts for 2019 between consolidated funds are:

	2019 Unrestricted Funds	2019 Restricted Funds	2019 Total
	£	£	£
Income			
Donations and legacies	135,646	147,832	283,478
Charitable activities	180,882	57,502	238,384
Other trading activities	715,657	-	715,657
Investment Income	290,369	20,447	310,816
Other Income	15,027	556	15,583
Total income	1,337,581	226,337	1,563,918

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

5. Costs of raising funds (Group)

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	£
Priory Rooms (Bull St) Limited:				
Meeting & conference facilities	416,410	-	416,410	562,303
Corporation Tax	(13,288)	-	(13,288)	1,827
Commercial lettings:				
Letting fees	4,758	-	4,758	5,958
Other	1,097	3,428	4,525	17,558
	408,977	3,428	412,405	587,646
2019	571,879	15,767	587,646	

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (Group)

Support, governance and other costs are directly incurred by the various funds, there is no apportionment required centrally and there are no central function costs.

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	2020 Total	2019 Total
	£	£	£	
Payroll costs	103,298	120,354	223,652	207,706
Repairs and maintenance	152,430	44,162	196,592	217,985
Costs of Quaker activities	323,363	60,183	383,546	264,129
Depreciation	105,854	-	105,854	101,259
Other employee costs	56,027	12,640	68,667	93,928
Utilities	32,536	4,841	37,377	47,065
Insurance	20,099	2,229	22,328	20,818
Costs of governance	32,899	-	32,899	28,531
Other costs	2,660	5,707	8,367	2,393
	829,165	250,116	1,079,281	983,814
2019	715,309	268,505	983,814	

Included within the expenditure on activities are amounts paid to defined contribution pension plans for employees of £11,513 (2019: £18,117).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

6. Expenditure on charitable activities (*continued*)

Costs of governance includes the auditors' remuneration of £9,420 (2019: £9,420) for auditing and accounting fees which is incurred by the central funds and is not apportioned to individual Branches. The amount also includes irrecoverable value added tax.

7. Restricted Transfers

The transfers from the restricted funds are the result of the release of previously restricted funds in the prior year being adjusted for in the current year. Due to the relatively small value of the transfer, the fact that the overall fund position remains unchanged and the fact that the funds can now be used more flexibly, the misclassification is not considered material for a restatement of prior year figures.

8. Staff details and analysis of staff costs, trustee remuneration and expenses

The charity does not employ a chief executive and the Trustees consider the key management personnel to be the Trustees. The Trustees were not paid or received any other benefits from employment with the charity or its subsidiary in the year (2019: £Nil). No Trustees received reimbursement of travelling expenses in 2020 (2019: £Nil). No trustee received payment for professional or other services supplied to the charity (2019: £Nil).

No employee earned £60,000 per annum or more (2019: £Nil). Pension costs are incurred directly by the cost centre where staff are employed and allocated to the various funds accordingly.

There are 8 statutory directors of the subsidiary (2019: 8) who receive no remuneration or benefits.

The average number of employees during the year analysed by function was:

	2020	2019
Conference facilities	13	13
Other Branches and projects	7	5
Wardens, caretakers and gardeners	8	9
Administration	1	1
	29	28

The total staff costs for the year were:

	2020 £	2019 £
Wages and salaries – conference facilities	258,423	243,215
Wages and salaries – other	198,679	152,660
National insurance	30,043	47,179
Pension costs	23,270	29,486
	510,415	472,540

All conference facilities staff are employed by the subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. These costs are included in costs of raising funds.

9. Net gains/(losses) on investments

	2020 £	2019 £
Unrestricted	(19,729)	87,711
Designated	56,096	196,525
Restricted	54,429	125,048
Total net gains	90,796	409,284

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

10. Related party transactions

Included within donations to the charity is an aggregate amount of £10,513 received from the Trustees.

11. Tangible fixed assets

Group	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	744,563	2,015,647	243,212	34,418	3,037,840
Additions	110,104	-	5,284	700	116,088
At 31 December 2020	854,667	2,015,647	248,496	35,118	3,153,928
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2020	572,129	638,842	182,864	31,663	1,425,498
Charge for year	39,063	40,313	25,162	1,316	105,854
At 31 December 2020	611,192	679,155	208,026	32,979	1,531,352
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2020	243,475	1,336,492	40,470	2,139	1,622,576
At 31 December 2019	172,434	1,376,805	60,348	2,755	1,612,342
Charity					
	Refurbishment of Meeting House £	Conference centre etc. £	Furniture & fittings £	Computer equipment £	Total £
Cost					
At 1 January 2020	744,563	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,770,472
Additions	110,104	-	-	-	110,104
At 31 December 2020	854,667	2,015,647	10,262	-	2,880,576
Depreciation					
At 1 January 2020	572,129	638,842	10,262	-	1,221,233
Charge for year	39,063	40,313	-	-	79,376
At 31 December 2020	611,192	679,155	10,262	-	1,300,609
Net book amounts					
At 31 December 2020	243,475	1,336,492	-	-	1,579,967
At 31 December 2019	172,434	1,376,805	-	-	1,549,239

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

11. Tangible fixed assets (continued)

All Group tangible assets are classified as unrestricted funds as they are held as part of the Trustees Fund where all assets are used for whatever is deemed appropriate to further the charity's objectives.

Refurbishment of Bull St Meeting House

During 1999 a programme of improvement and refurbishment was carried out at 40 Bull Street at a cost of £702,704, which has been capitalised and is being depreciated at 5% per annum from 1 January 2004.

During 2020 a new boiler and heating system was installed at 40 Bull Street at a cost of £110,104, which has been capitalised and is being depreciated at 10% per annum from 1 November 2020.

Conference Centre

The centre consists of a conference suite and ground level refreshment area for the use of the charity and other Quaker and charitable bodies together with significant commercial use. The operation of the centre is managed by the charity's subsidiary company, Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited. The conference centre is being depreciated at 2% per annum from 1 January 2004.

Heritage assets

As described in the accounting policies note, there is a cost and accumulated depreciation of £nil for the Meeting Houses and wardens' accommodation owned and used by the charity and group for Worship and charity activities. The buildings are maintained by the charity for their contribution to knowledge and culture of the Quaker faith. It would be impracticable and an inefficient use of the charity's funds to obtain market valuations for such unique assets and their contents. A description is given of each of the assets below and the year in which the Meeting Houses were constructed. On the basis of the age of the properties, had the original cost been capitalised, the Trustees are of the view that the assets would be fully depreciated at the balance sheet date. No reliable information exists to include original cost and accumulated depreciation amounts.

The charity is the beneficial owner of the following heritage asset properties:

Type of property	Year	Address
Freehold		
Meeting House and wardens' bungalow	1969	6 & 6b Sandhills Road, Barnt Green, B45 8NR
Meeting House and wardens' bungalow	1964	23 Watford Road, Cotteridge, Birmingham, B30 1JB
Meeting House	1930	Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB
Meeting House and Conference Centre	1931	40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF
CEQ Peace Hub	1931	41 Bull Street, Birmingham B4 6AF
Meeting House	1953	Hill Street, Coventry, CV1 4AN
Meeting House	1892	George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 1JP
Meeting House	1927	Hamlet Road, Hall Green, Birmingham, B28 9BG
Meeting House and wardens' house	1972	112 Castle Road, Hartshill, CV10 0SG
Meeting House *	1983	17 Colmore Row, Kings Heath, Birmingham, B14 7PE
Meeting House and wardens' flat	1695	39 High Street, Warwick, CV34 4AX
Meeting House	1939	Kenelm Road, Sutton Coldfield, B73 6HD
Woodlands Quaker Home	1945	434 Penn Road, Penn, Wolverhampton, WV4 4DH
Long leasehold		
Meeting House	1689	Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR
Meeting House	1905	65 Linden Road, Bournville, Birmingham, B30 1JT
Short leasehold		
Meeting House	1926	930 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, Birmingham, B29 6NP

* Kings Heath Meeting House, which is occupied rent free by the Local Meeting, was previously owned by a separate charity, South Birmingham Friends Institute, but was transferred to CEQ in October 2020.

The heritage asset contents of the above properties for which there is no recorded cost are classified into the following categories: organs, pianos, Quaker artwork, library books and other contents. The Trustees preserve these assets by keeping a register of assets held at each Branch and insuring the assets appropriately to protect them from damage or loss.

The titles to all of the properties owned by the charity and group are held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee with strict restrictions on disposition of the freehold which requires authorisation by an order of the court.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

12. Fixed asset investments

Group investments:

	2020		2019	
	Freehold properties £	Listed securities £	Freehold properties £	Listed securities £
Market value brought forward	4,304,500	2,352,410	4,257,000	1,998,368
Net additions/(sales)	-	(250,868)	-	(55,242)
Revaluation	(33,850)	90,796	47,500	409,284
Total Group investments	4,270,650	2,192,338	4,304,500	2,352,410

Group fixed asset investments are held between funds as follows:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Unrestricted	4,566,505	4,659,487
Restricted	793,032	813,181
Designated	1,103,451	1,184,242
Total Group investments	6,462,988	6,656,910

Charity investments:

	2020	2019
	£	£
Market value		
Freehold properties	4,270,650	4,304,500
Listed securities	2,114,859	2,203,196
Total Charity investments	6,385,509	6,507,696

Freehold Properties

The charity and group own the following freehold investment properties held by Friends Trusts Ltd as Nominee:

A bungalow adjacent to Barnt Green Meeting House at 6a Sandhills Road, Barnt Green. The property was valued on an open market basis at £180,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The property is subject to a shorthold tenancy.

The property known as Redditch Meeting House, Matchborough, Redditch, B98 0ER. Following the termination of a lease to Worcester County Council (from 2009 to 2015), the property was let on short lease from 1 November 2015 to Latham School of Dance and from 1 August 2018 to Amelia's Dance Academy. The property was revalued on an open market basis at £67,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

Private flat and community cafe at 39 High Street Warwick CV34 4AX. The property was valued on an open market basis at £120,000 by Lawrence and Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. The property has been let to a private tenant since June 2016.

Office accommodation at 51 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. This property was valued on an open market basis at £116,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. It is leased to Oulsnam and a renewed ten year lease from 25 December 2013 was signed in August 2014.

Office accommodation at 53 Church Road, Northfield, Birmingham, B31 2LB. It was valued on an open market basis at £80,500 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020. It is leased to ecobirmingham, and a five year lease was signed on 2 July 2018.

A bungalow adjacent to the Meeting House in Selly Oak was formerly warden's accommodation and treated as a functional property but during 2014 it was adapted for commercial letting, and was reclassified as an investment property. The property was valued on an open market basis at £27,150 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

A flat within the Hartshill Meeting House has been converted into private rented accommodation and was reclassified as an investment property for 2019. The flat was valued at £65,000 on an open market basis by Lawrence & Wightman on 31 December 2020.

An office development on land owned by the Area Meeting at 1 Colmore Square, Birmingham. The land is let on a 250 years lease from 29 September 1999 and was valued on an open market basis at £3,615,000 by Lawrence & Wightman, Chartered Surveyors on 31 December 2020.

The types of investment held at 31 December 2020 and their market values were:

	2020 £	2019 £
Listed investments (incl. loan stocks)	278,995	232,797
Investment properties	4,270,650	4,304,500
Social investments	7,694	7,341
Other investments (Unit Trusts, Branch & Trustee Reserves)	1,905,649	2,112,272
Total Group investments	6,462,991	6,656,910

Unlisted investments

The charity owns 100% of the Ordinary share capital of Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited (company number: 05129631). There is no investment cost included in for the subsidiary in the charity's balance sheet, with all profit is donated back to the parent entity to support with the charitable objectives of Central England Quakers.

	2020 £	2019 £
Aggregate capital and reserves	236,589	344,215
Profit for the year after taxation	(107,626)	149,592

The 2019 profit before taxation is inclusive of a £120,000 donation to CEQ that was treated as a dividend distribution as required by the technical guidance released by The Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW). No such dividend was made in 2020.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

12. Fixed asset investments (continued)

The following is a summary of the profit for the year after taxation in Priory Rooms (Bull Street) Limited.

	2020	2019
	£	£
Sales of conference facilities	188,942	715,657
Cost of sales	(20,974)	(114,512)
Distribution costs	(2,805)	(7,028)
Administrative expenses	(419,109)	(464,481)
Other operating income	129,539	-
Management charge to parent charity	-	(6,000)
Operating profit/(loss)	(124,407)	123,636
Income and realised gains from investments	1,975	5,856
Gain on financial assets at fair value	1,518	21,927
Profit before taxation	(120,914)	151,419
Provision for deferred taxation (note 17)	13,288	(1,827)
Profit after taxation	(107,626)	149,592

The company paid a dividend of £Nil to the parent charity during the year (2019: £120,000).

13. Debtors

	2020	2019
	£	£
Group		
Trade debtors	2,568	71,519
Other debtors	53,249	68,142
	55,817	139,661
	2020	2019
	£	£
Charity		
Trade Debtors	-	-
Other debtors	18,128	43,108
	150,538	43,108

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

14. Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year

	2020	2019
	£	£
Group		
Trade creditors	10,750	12,053
Social security and other taxes	26,245	42,998
Accruals	51,253	94,843
	88,248	149,894
	2020	2019
	£	£
Charity		
Social security and other taxes	5,497	13,780
Accruals	24,246	58,833
	29,743	72,613
Creditors: Amounts falling due after one year		
	2020	2019
	£	£
Group		
Corporation Tax (in Subsidiary)	-	2,249
	-	2,249

15. Secured assets

Freehold land and buildings at Penn Road, Wolverhampton, West Midlands, WV4 4DH, have been given as security for loan finance obtained in the Charity's name from Triodos Bank NV and in turn made available to Woodlands Quaker Home in respect of expenditure on new buildings. The amount of loan finance outstanding at 31 December 2020 was £67,013 (2019: £70,085). The loan is not included in these financial statements as the charity does not expect to have to meet any part of the debt. The last relevant market valuation for the secured property was £1,450,000 in May 2019.

Friends Trusts Ltd, as nominee for land, is a party to the leases (excluding tenancy agreements) pertaining to CEQ investment properties, which are 1 Colmore Square, Redditch Meeting House, 51 Church Road, 53 Church Road and the Woodlands.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

16. Provision for liabilities

	2020 £	2019 £
Deferred tax		
Accelerated capital allowances	(459)	10,581
	Deferred tax	
	£	
Balance at 1 January 2020		10,581
Provided during year		(11,040)
At 31 December 2020		(459)

The provision for deferred taxation arises in the charity's subsidiary company. The provision relates to unrestricted funds in 2020 and 2019.

17. Restricted funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	209,158	68,732	(86,685)	5,325	(49,174)	147,356
Other Branches	161,528	92,512	(162,744)	1,523	86,000	178,819
Building Fund	496,434	7,576	(4,115)	34,665	(56,374)	478,186
Trustees Reserves	205,369	-	-	12,917	-	218,286
Restricted funds	1,072,488	168,820	(253,544)	54,429	(19,547)	1,022,646

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Other Branches consist of those bodies set up by the Area Meeting for particular purposes and identified in the Trustees Report. The definition of a Branch is a committee or project that has its own bank account.

As described in the Trustees Report, branches of note are West Midlands Quaker Peace Education Project (known as "Peacemakers") and Peace Hub.

Building Fund Investments (previously classified as designated) comprise of investments held to support the maintenance, repair and improvement of the charity's Meeting Houses. The income from the investments is applied to a designated "Building Fund" bank account from which grants and loans are made to individual Local Meetings.

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. The two Funds which remain restricted are the proceeds of Atherstone Meeting House with income applied to Hartshill Local Meeting and the proceeds of Cotteridge Land Sale with income applied to Cotteridge Local Meeting.

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

18. Designated funds (Charity and Group)

	Opening Balance	Income	Expenditure	Investment gains/(losses)	Transfers	Closing Balance
	£	£	£	£	£	£
Local Meetings	939,529	225,475	(287,243)	30,946	42,164	950,872
JYF Branch	1,648	20	(60)	-	-	1,608
Redditch	15,479	18	(14)	-	-	15,483
Bull Street	57,938	-	(34,980)	-	105,000	127,958
Building Fund	54,112	40,000	(74)	-	(26)	94,012
Black Country	26,133	7,896	(74)	-	(20,000)	13,955
Sellywood House	334,962	-	(150,000)	8,726	-	193,688
Trustees Reserves	261,181	-	-	16,424	-	277,605
Designated funds	1,690,982	273,447	(472,445)	56,096	127,138	1,675,180

Local Meetings funds are for the purpose of the respective Meetings and are raised from their members or from letting their premises to third parties. These funds are needed for the repair and maintenance of premises, to meet various administrative costs and to support committees and charitable activities. Local Meetings also organise collections after Meeting for Worship for a variety of bodies, some of which are Quaker and others not. These monies pass through the Local Meetings on to the bodies concerned. The Local Meetings may also choose to add to a collection or make a special grant from funds for charitable purposes.

Redditch Building Fund is held in respect of the Redditch Meeting House. The Meeting House at Redditch is no longer used by the Local Meeting and is leased to a Dance School. The landlord's responsibilities therefore lie with the Trustees and the previous sinking fund is held in a CAF Gold Account entitled 'Redditch Building Fund' to cover those items that are defined in the lease as being the responsibility of the landlord. Part of the fund was used in 2015 to make property 'fit for purpose' for the new tenant.

In 2009 a separate **Bull Street fund** was established to provide for the future refurbishment of the 40 Bull Street property (including Priory Rooms Conference Centre). The fund was used between 2014 and 2016 to support the refurbishment of Bull Street Meeting House (and Priory Rooms) and the conversion of the adjacent 41 Bull Street property for Quaker use as a Peace and Justice Centre (Peace Hub). Since 2016 the Fund has been used for annual repairs, maintenance and improvements to both properties. The principal source of income is transfers from the Trustee Fund. The Bull Street Investments were merged with the Building Fund Investments on 1 January 2019.

The Building Fund receives income from Building Fund Investments (see Restricted Funds) and provides loans or grants to assist Local Meetings to maintain their properties if a major repair is beyond their means and to carry out agreed improvements to premises.

The Black Country Fund is a designated fund established by area meeting in June 2015 to support the development of Quakerism in the Black Country. The fund comprises the residual assets of the former Dudley Local Meeting, which was laid down on 31 December 2015, and receives the dividend income from one of the Trustee Reserve Funds known as "Dudley Meeting Houses" (see below).

Sellywood House Fund was originally created to provide bursary support to Friends in residence at Sellywood House (a home for elderly Quakers). The capital is owned by the Area Meeting, and until the end of 2008 the income was distributed to Friends in need by a CEQ committee. In late 2008 a decision was made to wind up the committee and to mandate the income from the investments to The Charities of Susanna Cole and Others, charity number 204531 (a related Quaker charity), delegating to Susanna Cole Trustees the responsibility for distributing the income to Friends in need. Accordingly, from 1 January 2009, the scheme ceased to operate as a Branch of the CEQ charity, and the capital investments were reclassified as a designated fund. During 2020 £150,000 of this fund was sold to provide grants to two sister charities providing care for elderly people, Old People's Fund Trust (£100,000) and Woodlands Quaker Home (£50,000).

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

18. Designated funds (continued)

In **Trustees' Reserve Funds**, there are four Reserve Funds which consist of investments held by Trustees, derived from the sale of previous Meeting Houses together with some bequests, where the income is applied to the benefit of some Local Meetings. Previously classified as Restricted, two of the four funds have been reclassified as designated; Dudley Meeting Houses with income applied to the Black Country Fund and Proceeds of Church Road Properties Northfield with income applied to the Northfield Development Committee.

19. Analysis of Group assets between funds

	Tangible Fixed Assets	Fixed Asset Investments	Net Current Assets	Creditors due after one year	Total
	£	£	£	£	£
Unrestricted funds	1,514,307	4,566,505	237,332	459	6,318,603
Restricted funds					
Local Meetings	-	84,001	63,356	-	147,357
Other Branches	-	25,735	153,084	-	178,819
Building Fund	-	465,010	13,174	-	478,184
Trustees Reserves	-	218,286	-	-	218,286
Designated funds					
Local Meetings (incl.JYF)	-	632,158	320,322	-	952,480
Redditch	-	-	15,483	-	15,483
Bull Street	108,269	-	19,689	-	127,958
Building Fund	-	-	94,011	-	94,011
Black Country	-	-	13,955	-	13,955
Sellywood House	-	193,688	-	-	193,688
Trustee Reserves	-	277,605	-	-	277,605
	1,622,576	6,462,988	930,405	459	9,016,428

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

20. Consolidated (Group) Statement of Financial Activities for the year ended 31 December 2019

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2019	Total 2018
	£	£	£	£
Income				
Donations and legacies	135,646	147,832	283,478	328,108
Charitable activities	180,882	57,502	238,384	332,760
Other trading activities	715,657	-	715,657	687,211
Investment Income	290,369	20,447	310,816	297,455
Other Income	15,027	556	15,583	13,001
Total income	1,337,581	226,337	1,563,918	1,658,535
Expenditure				
Cost of raising funds	(571,879)	(15,767)	(587,646)	(576,845)
Charitable activities	(715,309)	(268,505)	(983,814)	(963,245)
Other Expenses	-	-	-	(121,424)
Total expenditure	(1,287,189)	(284,272)	(1,571,461)	(1,661,514)
Net gains/(losses) on investments	284,236	125,048	409,284	(32,039)
Net income/(expenditure) before transfers	334,629	67,113	401,741	(35,018)
Transfers between funds	(93,916)	93,916	-	-
Net movement in funds	240,713	161,029	401,742	(35,018)
Total funds brought forward	8,080,457	911,459	8,991,916	9,026,934
Total funds carried forward	8,321,170	1,072,488	9,393,658	8,991,916

THE CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING CHARITIES

NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2020

21. Capital commitments

There was no future capital expenditure contracted for but not provided in the financial statements at 31 December 2020 and 31 December 2019.