

QUIET WAYS



The Newsletter of Sussex East Area Meeting

February 2017

Quaker National Day of Healing March 18th 2017

May we have your support to help make our planned national day of healing a success?

We are encouraging every Local Quaker meeting of BYM to participate in the Quaker National Day of Healing on March 18th 2017. This letter is inviting you to join with us in the Healing Ministry.

Perhaps as never before, what the world needs is healing. Everywhere we look we see sadness, sickness, tragedy, starvation, homelessness, and conflict. Add to that the damage to the environment, and it would be impossible to deny that the world indeed needs healing.

With that in mind, Friends Fellowship of Healing (FFH) is holding the National Day of Healing on the 18th March this year. Our heart-felt wish is that Friends will join together on the day for a continuous Meeting for Worship for Healing from 11.00am to 4.00pm in their own Meeting Houses or in a local Friend's house.

Meetings where distant healing groups already exist will be familiar with the concept of distant

healing, but FFH/QSH would love for all Local Meetings to take part, and enhance the corporate spiritual energy that could be released to focus on the healing needs that are of concern to us all. We hope that Area Meetings will feel able to support this initiative and encourage their Local Meetings.

Meetings unfamiliar with this process simply need to proceed with this as an extended Meeting for Worship but with a clear focus on healing for whatever concerns come to mind.

Friends would be free to come for as long as they are able and to go as circumstances allow, have comfort breaks and refreshments as and when needed. Each meeting would need an anchor person, spiritually led, acting as a coordinator with designated 'elders' covering each hour of the Meeting, helping to facilitate the worship. Where known, we have already contacted a registered QSH member in local meetings

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact anyone on the FFH sub-Committee, our

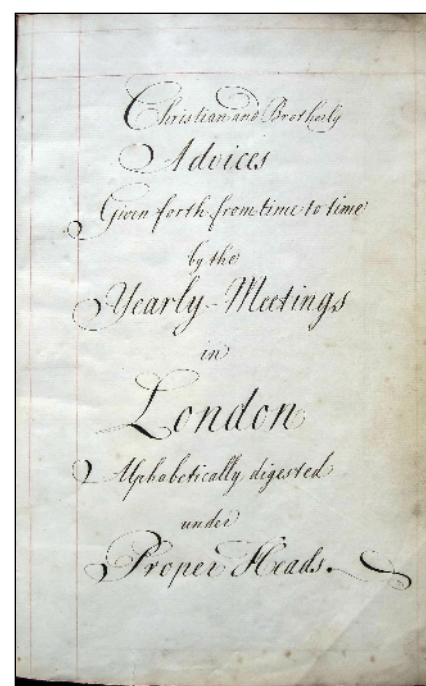
details are below.

Additional information, including a downloadable poster form for use in your own meeting is available at <http://www.quaker-healing.org.uk/>

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Events in the USA

The full statement from Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends House, Quakers' central offices in London on Saturday 4 February, 2017

"We are a people that follow after those things that make for peace, love and unity' (Margaret Fell, writing to Charles II in 1660). Quakers in Britain see these values now under growing threat around the world, not least from recent developments in the United States of America.

"We condemn all acts of government which set people against one another; which discriminate against people because of who they are or where they were born. We reject policies

which condone suspicion and hatred; which turn away those who need and depend upon our help. We were not put on Earth for this, but to be a people of God, to live in harmony with each other.

"There can be no peace without justice; no love without trust; and no unity without equality. Our faith urges us to welcome the stranger as our equal and friend, feed those who are hungry and shelter those who are homeless, needy and frightened.

"Alongside Quakers in the USA, and their American Friends Service Committee, we stand with those whose lives are blighted by racist, discriminatory policies and those whose faith is denigrated by

association with a tiny violent minority. We pray for the courage and steadfastness that will be needed as we uphold our testimony of equality, justice, peace, sustainability and truth. For us, prayer is inseparable from action.

"Humanity needs leaders of integrity and conscience, ready to be held to account by individuals and institutions, national and international. We pray for those in positions of power. We call on them, as public servants, to work with all of good faith to build the world we seek, to fertilise the soil in which the tender shoots of peace, love and unity may flourish."



Quaker Mary Dyer led to execution on Boston Common, June 1, 1660. Artist Unknown - Wikimedia Commons licence.

Quakers call for a ban on fracking - Quakers in Britain - 10 February 2017

Quakers are calling for a ban on new and intensive forms of fossil fuel extraction, including fracking for shale gas and oil, and underground coal gasification.

Meeting in London this week, Quakers said, "The UK needs to be investing in efficient and renewable energy, and reducing demand, not in additional fossil fuels. Fracked gas is not the low-carbon solution some suggest that it is and is incompatible with tackling the climate crisis. It is destructive of the environment, land and communities."

While Quakers around the country will find ways of protesting, on Saturday, 6 May, many will climb Pendle Hill in Lancashire to protest against the effects of fracking, both locally and around the world. Quakers are known for worshipping

in stillness and they will gather in a meeting for worship for witness.

Pendle Hill is at the centre of an area licensed for fracking. This is also a significant place for Quakers. In 1652, George Fox climbed the hill and had a vision of creating a great movement of people. Weeks later, at Firbank Fell in Cumbria, he preached to one thousand for three hours and, with others, he founded the Quaker Church.

Quakers are motivated by faith to cherish the Earth for future generations and to speak out against climate injustice that causes huge inequalities across the world. In 2011 they made a commitment to take action to become a low-carbon, sustainable community.

Meeting for Sufferings, Quakers' representative body, also

said:

"For some years Quakers in Britain have worked to advocate for climate justice in our central work and meetings. In 2011 we committed to 'speak truth to power' on sustainability issues. We have faith that we can tackle climate change and build a more sustainable future, but we know this is only possible if fossil fuels remain underground.

"At this time we are particularly concerned about the expansion of fracking for shale gas. The UK needs to be investing in efficient and renewable energy, and reducing demand, not in additional fossil fuels. Fracked gas is not the low-carbon solution some suggest that it is and is incompatible with tackling the climate crisis. It is destructive of the environment, land and communities.



Cwm Idwal, Gwynedd. July 2015

Sussex East Area Quaker Meeting - Report of Trustees for Third Quarter of 2016

Governance The trustees met on 13th August and 17th September. Planning for the hand over of the role of Clerk to Trustees at the end of the year was undertaken.

Documentation for the conversion of the Area Meeting to Charity Incorporated Organisation (CIO) was prepared and recommended to Area Meeting. Preparations were made to enable trustees to benefit from role related training.

Finance Trustees continued to keep the state of the whole Area Meeting's finances under review. Work on the 2015 accounts continued to ensure that the deadline for submission to the Charity Commission of 30th October would be achieved. The review of investments and financial controls was ongoing.

Risk The risk register was kept under review. Trustees were relieved to learn that Area Meeting had been able to appoint a replacement Safeguarding Coordinator. In view of previous unsatisfactory experiences with the insurance broker, a review of insurance needs was started with a view to moving the business elsewhere at the next renewal.

Employees Volunteer resident friends had been appointed to serve in Lewes. The self employed status of the children's worker at Lewes had been clarified. The 2% pay rise for the cleaners at Hastings and Eastbourne had been actioned.

Bexhill The quinquennial survey had been done and the report was awaited.

Lewes The Premises Committee had kept trustees fully informed

concerning their work including their decision to go ahead with electrical repair work without the approval of trustees.

Eastbourne Further investigations of the damp problem including a CCTV survey of the drain had been organised. Remedial work had been undertaken in the bathroom of Wish Cottage.

Herstmonceux Arrangements were made to obtain quotations for the remedial works required at Friends Cottage and the Meeting House. Work was ongoing with regard to bringing 1 Penn Cottage up to current standards for leased properties. It was intended that this would include updating the heating systems in 2 Penn Cottage and Friends Cottage

Sussex East Area Quaker Meeting - Report of Trustees for Fourth Quarter of 2016

Governance The trustees met on 29th October and 17th December. Planning for the hand over of the role of Clerk to Trustees at the end of the year continued. Confirmation was obtained from the Charity Commission for the Scheme which combined all the elements of the Area Meeting into a single charitable entity. Arrangements were made for the participation of trustees in appropriate training.

Finance Trustees continued to keep the state of the whole Area Meeting's finances under review. Work on the 2015 accounts was completed in time to ensure that the deadline for submission to the

Charity Commission of 30th October was achieved. The review of investments and financial controls was ongoing. Work had commenced on preparing the 2016 accounts and a budget for 2017.

Risk The risk register was kept under review. A review of insurance needs informed the decision to move the business to a different broker which has resulted in a substantial reduction in the premium being paid.

Bexhill The quinquennial survey had been received. Local Friends were arranging for minor defects to be dealt with as well as obtaining quotations for the work that needed to be done to the flat roof.

Hastings Repairs to the rendering on a chimney which had blown off in the storms had been authorised.

Lewes The Premises Committee was exploring the possibility of appointing a Building Services Manager.

Eastbourne Repairs to remedy the damp ingress problem in the Meeting Room were authorised.

Herstmonceux Work was ongoing regarding bringing the let properties up to the current standards required by regulations. In addition remedial works identified in the quinquennial survey report had been authorised. Trustees expect that these works will cost at least £50,000.

