



Central England
Quakers

Peace Hub Annual Report 2024



2024 was a year of change for Peace Hub, looking back at 10 years of encouraging action for peace, and looking forward to a new strategy to engage the public in peace & social justice issues.

Photo: Our coordinator carries the beautiful peace dove puppet, joining others in a vigil at the Roxel arms factory, as part of the Peace Pilgrimage.

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Peace Hub is a branch of The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities, registered charity number 224571.

About Peace Hub

What is Peace Hub?

Peace Hub is a project in Birmingham, encouraging action for peace and helping to build a community that cares. It is a semi-autonomous branch of Central England Quakers, or CEQ, (registered charity number 224571), with its own management committee, budget and bank account.

The organisation acts as a Hub for peace & social justice activity in the city, connecting members of the public, activists, faith groups and NGOs with each other.

Peace Hub aims to engage members of the public of all faiths and none. As a Quaker organisation our commitment to peace & social justice (and the various themes) springs from our faith, and we are happy to discuss this with anyone we work with who is interested.

Vision Statement

As Quakers we are called to act for Peace and Justice. Peace Hub seeks to inspire an inclusive community to take up this call.

We aim for Peace Hub to become a Quaker service to the public that Birmingham and the Midlands are proud to have. We hope that Peace Hub will become a service to which people naturally come when wanting to act for peace and justice, and provide support for networks of peace-makers.

Priorities & Objectives

Priorities:

- 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.

Objectives:

- Encouraging Quakers and the wider public in the region to work on peace issues, specifically around the agreed priorities.
- Developing links and working with Quaker, other faith and local community groups through whom to promote and act on the agreed priorities.
- Maintaining links with Peacemakers, and exploring opportunities for working with children and schools linked to the agreed priorities.
- Organising in-person and online peace events and activities that fit identified priorities for action.
- Developing an 'activist journey' that supports people who have not taken action before to take action for peace.

10 year strategic review

2024 represented Peace Hub's 10th year, prompting the Management Committee to hold a strategy review. Our original vision statement for the project read: "As Quakers we are called to act for Peace and Justice. Peace Hub seeks to provide a centre from which an inclusive community is inspired to take up this call."

Facilitated by Sara Hagel, we used an appreciative enquiry process to consider the initiatives that Peace Hub has used to try and meet this aim over our first 10 years. In consultation with stakeholders we have drawn out what has worked well, the frustrations we have experienced, and our wishes for the future.

Future Priorities

Following this review, we have identified three priorities for the Peace Hub project, which now form part of our vision statement and aims (as set out on page 1):

- 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.

These priorities represent the best of what we have done since 2014, and where the greatest potential for growth lies.

Laying down the drop-in model

We recognised that these priorities are not compatible with the old current drop-in model for the Peace Hub. Encouraging members of the public to come to us by dropping in has always been a limitation, but one that pre-covid we endeavoured to work within. However, since the pandemic, it has become clear that this model does not offer scope for growth. We feel that freeing up our ability to meet people where they are, and allowing the coordinator more flexible use of their work time, outweighs the benefits of maintaining regular drop-in hours.

In order to facilitate the work that we have identified as most valuable, we aim to laid down the drop-in model (i.e. closed the Hub to the public) at the end of the year. In-person activities remain important for our work, but in future these will be organised to better meet our target audience's needs and availability, and our partner organisations' timescales.



Letting go of our drop-in model, but staying at 41 Bull St for now, we will be carrying forward the best of the work we've done, such as partnerships with Peace Pilgrimage and Footsteps



Work & Witness at the Hub in 2024

2024 was Peace Hub's final year using the model of a rolling programme of themes, with displays and actions for drop-in visitors to engage with. While we have identified that this model has reached the end of its usefulness, the 'library' of themes that we have built up since 2014 forms a strong base for our work going forward. The space we have created to allow different opinions to be heard and shared values to be found represents the best of what we have achieved in the past 10 years. Our new model of working will seek to bring this to a wider audience by meeting people where they are, rather than trying to bring them to us.

We ran four peace & social justice themes in 2024. With a process of review and change under way, we returned to several themes that have resonated with our visitors over the past 10 years, and been the basis of our strongest partnerships – climate justice, solidarity with refugees and resisting the arms trade. We also focused on a topic that we hope to build on in future – anti-racism.

A Burning Issue – continuing from 2023, this theme encouraged visitors to ask 'how can we build climate justice?' We hosted the thought-provoking Meaningful Textiles exhibition, on loan from the Westhill Endowment. A set of embroideries by Pamela Pavitt, these beautiful, intricate works invited us to reflect on questions of climate justice, and get inspired to take action. To channel that action, we joined with Brum Climate Justice Coalition to petition Birmingham City Council, calling on them to stick to their commitment to net-zero by 2030, five years on from declaring a climate emergency.

Who We Are – This theme connected with organisations under the Together with Refugees banner. We worked with CEQ Peace Committee to produce a display of orange hearts in solidarity with people seeking sanctuary, and to send 'valentines' cards to MPs encouraging them to challenge the hostile environment, and the Rwanda plan. Visitors to the hub supported City of Sanctuary's 'change the message' campaign, contacting local media outlets, with positive stories that show how compassion and welcome are more popular than cruelty and division.

Facing the Past, Building the Future -This built on our successful theme linked to the Commonwealth Games in 2022. We explored questions raised by the idea of a 'commonwealth' about empire, colonialism and their impacts today. We made connections to work done by Quakers locally and nationally reflecting on our own history and narratives. We revisited the work of Journey to Justice highlighting local struggles for freedom by the Windrush generation and others who have made their home in Birmingham. Visitors supported the Justice for Windrush campaign, calling on the major party leaders to pledge delivery of full compensation to Windrush victims as part of their general election manifestos.

Brummies for Peace – for our final theme in this format, we returned to the very first issue highlighted at Peace Hub – the arms trade. We joined Peace Pilgrimage and the StopSDSC coalition, to witness against the SDSC arms fair in nearby Telford, building local connections and supporting people from Birmingham to join the action. Visitors to the Hub wrote messages of peace on origami doves, that were sent with postcards to the arms fair's hosts Telford International Centre. With armed conflict dominating the news in 2024, creating space for people to have open conversations about this issue, and bring the voices of those affected by the arms trade to public actions helped bridge our old and new ways of working.



Partnerships & Reaching Out

We have been reflecting on our 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 our work in the coming years – our coordinator will build on these relationships to begin our new model of working in the community and look for where Peace Hub can offer something constructive.

Alongside our theme-linked work with Brum Climate Justice Coalition, City of Sanctuary, CEQ Peace Committee, Peace Pilgrimage and StopSDSC (see previous page) we worked with some of our long-standing partners in 2024:

Young Peace Ambassadors

Young Peace Ambassadors is a year-long pilot run jointly with our sister organisation Peacemakers. Part one, in the summer term of 2024, involved running workshops with six classes at four schools in inner-city Birmingham, exploring what peace and justice mean, and how we can make a difference. In the autumn term, smaller groups from each school were supported to develop projects for peace and social justice in their local community:

- St Chad's - Climate change (energy, litter, food waste, planting)
- St Mary's - Kindness Project (how can we be kinder to ourselves and each other?)
- St Benedict's - Food (waste, equality, packaging)
- St George's - Friendship - (friendship bench, welcoming school, listening skills)

In spring 2025, our two organisations will jointly host the final workshop in the current cycle. We're excited to hear about the projects that the children have been working on, celebrate what they have achieved, and offer motivation and support to make these projects sustainable.

Footsteps (Faiths for a Low Carbon Future)

We continued to support the interfaith climate network with communications and outreach, spreading the word about their activities and supporting people to join. Two recent graduates were commissioned to develop an Instagram presence for Footsteps. Peace Hub is supporting this work as Footsteps engages a young adult audience in its work.

We also provided practical support for Footsteps events. At an interfaith walk in the Lickey Hills, we helped families from inner-city Birmingham to get the train to this nearby natural beauty spot for the first time, providing a gentle introduction to eco-action work for people outside the activist bubble. Together for Nature was a successful event reaching local communities in East Birmingham, again our support helped make the event enjoyable and accessible for a wider audience.

A major piece of work launched by Footsteps at Together for Nature, in partnership Bahu Trust and Ashden, is the Birmingham Faith Climate Action Partnership. This will support faith communities to run eco-action projects in their local communities, building connection and testing ideas that could be replicated elsewhere. This approach chimes with Peace Hub's new strategy, and we look forward to working together on this in 2025.

CEQ Peace Committee

In 2024 we decided to integrate the work of Peace Committee within the new Peace Hub structure. Peace Committee was laid down as a separate branch of CEAQM. Instead a new Focus Group will be formed for CEQ Friends to enliven and enrich the work of Peace Hub and to support Friends in developing their peace witness.



Young Peace Ambassadors draw inspiration from change-makers around the world, creating LEGO models of their projects.

Measuring Impact

Measuring impact under our old model has been difficult. We have measured outputs, in terms of the number of people we have engaged with. In 2024 we engaged over 700 in discussions about our themes, and peace and social justice more broadly. Approximately half of these were visitors to the Hub, the other half being those we connected with through partnership work, workshops and supporting people to join public actions. We also engaged smaller numbers of people with Quaker outreach, and signposting those with personal issues to relevant support.

We recognise that this has largely been a case of planting seeds and hoping that they grow. In 'Emergent Strategy' Adrienne Maree Brown notes that (in taking social action) everything either grows upwards, lays down deeper roots, or creates compost to feed what grows next. In our first 10 years we have benefitted from a flexible approach that allowed us to experiment with and learn from different forms of action. Our partnership work has been the aspect that has grown upwards – our work with, for example Footsteps and Quaker Roots, has produced the most tangible outcomes. We have laid down roots in terms of how we approach peace action – creating space for open conversations about difficult topics, allowing people to feel heard and build connection. Experiments that did not go as we had hoped, such as the community fridge idea, have become compost, informing our new strategy.

We know that in our partnership work, our contributions have helped to extend the reach and impact of the joint actions we have taken part in. Although quantifying the difference that Peace Hub support has made remains difficult, from our appreciative enquiry, our partner organisations observed that the support Peace Hub has provided has helped maintain connections with supporters, bring people to events and offer something of our relational approach to social action and movement-building.

As part of our new strategy, we are seeking to improve our impact measurement, establishing quantitative targets for engagement and qualitative measures of the change that participants have undergone in feeling confident to take action for peace and social justice, having taken part in our peace events, and particularly through our activist journey.

Stay in Touch

We welcome feedback, suggestions and opportunities for collaboration from our stakeholders.

Please feel free to contact our coordinator, Peter Doubtfire:

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office@peacehub.org.uk 07718937156 (phone, WhatsApp & Signal)

[@QuakerPeaceHub](#) (BlueSky, Instagram & Facebook)

CEQ Peace Hub Accounts for 2024

We would like to thank all our donors (individuals, Quaker Meetings and trusts) whose support allows our work for peace & social justice to happen. Please see the back page for details of how to continue to support this work in 2025.

	£ 2024	£ 2023
INCOME		
Peacemakers rent	7,515	7,020
Donations from individuals	3,923	3,832
Donations from Local Meetings/Branches	2,215	6,110
Transfer from Peace Committee	6,122	
Grants from Trusts	500	4,000
Grants from CEQ Area Meeting	5,000	3,000
Funding for Workshops	1,000	5,706
Other income (including room hire)	354	119
Recharges for consultancy work	803	893
TOTAL INCOME	27,432	30,680
EXPENDITURE		
Salary	18,520	17,350
Activities		
Workshops	4,531	410
Marketing materials & outreach		40
Support costs		
Birmingham City Council Rates	384	483
Utilities, cleaning, maintenance	4,276	7,170
Insurance		791
Sundry administrative expenses	505	585
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	28,216	26,829
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE	(784)	3,851
Fund balance brought forward 1 Jan	16,113	12,262
Fund balance carried forward 31 Dec	15,329	16,113
BALANCE SHEET		
Debtors	618	
Cash at Bank	14,711	16,113
NET ASSETS	15,329	16,113

Peace Hub has a reserves policy which specifies a minimum bank balance of £6,500, to provide protection for cash flow and the coordinator's salary. We have budgeted to spend the money from Peace Committee on work informed by the Focus Group bringing our reserves back down to our policy level in 2025.

Support our Work

Our work relies on support from people like you, who are passionate about peace and justice. Please consider making a donation using the details below:

BACS transfer to Central England Quakers Peace Hub, CAF Bank,
Sort code 40-52-40, Account 00024686

Send a cheque made payable to "Central England Quakers Peace Hub"
to 41 Bull St, Birmingham, B4 6AF.

Donate securely online at peacehub.org.uk/donate

Future Plans

Engagement with the public

Our coordinator is working on a programme of events and activities beginning in spring 2025. These will help people explore what peace and social justice means, and consider how they might be feeling led to take action. We'll share ideas for getting involved in different ways depending on available time, energy and preferred style of action.

We will be holding a 10th Anniversary Relaunch on Wednesday 26th February, exactly a decade after our 'official launch' event in 2015. This will provide an opportunity to reconnect with our supporters, celebrate the achievements of the past 10 years, and launch our new way of working.

A Hub for Peace & Social Justice work

Peace Hub will continue to develop its role as a metaphorical 'hub' for peace and social justice activity, seeking to mutually strengthen movements under this broad umbrella. We look forward to a Changemakers Forum to be held in conjunction with the Ella Baker School of Organising, bringing together activists from different social justice movements to explore how we go beyond protesting wrongs to making real change.

We will continue to build on our partnership work, completing our current Peace Ambassadors project with Peacemakers, working alongside Footsteps on the new GrassRoutes initiative and supporting the Peace Pilgrimage as a form of peace activism that builds community.

Management Structure

Our new structure will maintain the nominated Peace Hub Management Committee (PHMC) to oversee the finance, line management and overall project development.

A Peace Hub Focus Group will work with the Coordinator to develop the content and provide guidance on themes and groups to work with. As Peace Committee is laid down, we hope that merging ongoing Peace Hub activities with those of the former Peace Committee will be a more engaging way for Friends to be involved in peace work at an Area Meeting level.

The Focus Group will be a special interest group rather than formally nominated, but will have one member on the PHMC. The group will also be accountable to PHMC in terms of keeping content and public communications in line with Quaker Testimonies and Concerns.

Use of the building

Peace Hub and Peacemakers are keen to maintain use of the building for office space and meetings. No longer using the shop-floor for drop-ins will free up space for other potential uses, this will need longer-term consideration by AM and trustees.

Peace Hub, Peacemakers and the Principal Officer have met to discuss shorter-term arrangements for the building – starting from January 2025, CEQ trustees take over responsibility for the running of the building, and adjustments to grants provided by CEQ will be made, with the intention of creating 'no net change' to the funding of the work itself.