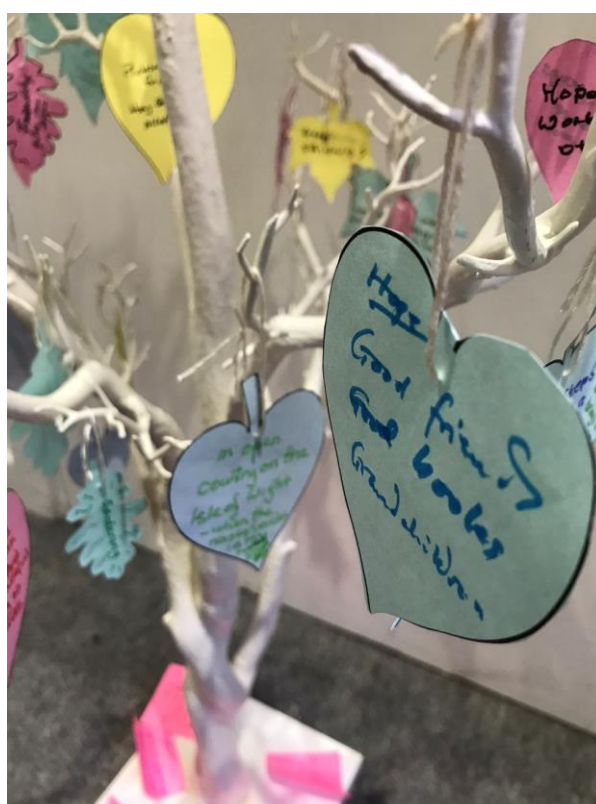
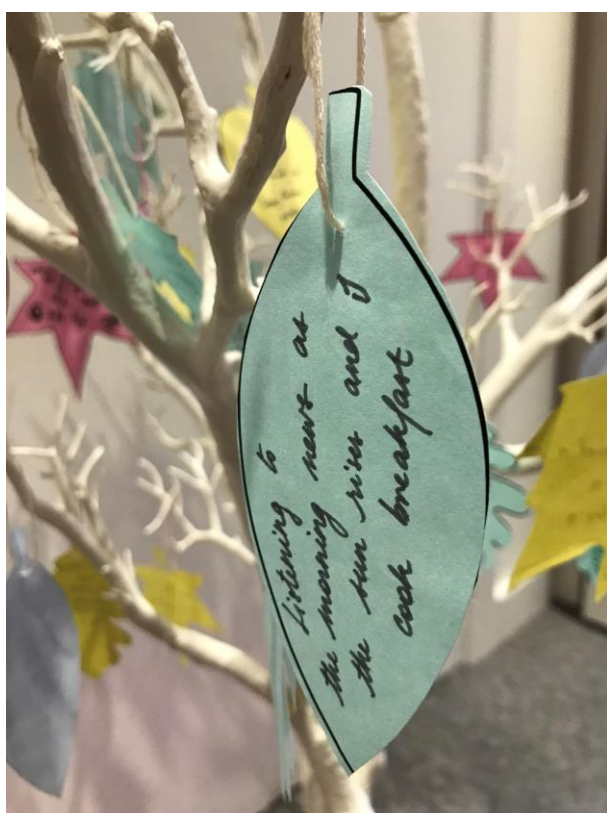




Central England
Quakers

Peace Hub Annual Report 2025



2025 saw a new start for Peace Hub, implementing our new strategy, and making use of greater flexibility to connect with and support a wide range of community and volunteer-led groups taking action for peace & social justice.

Photo: a peace tree, with messages about hope, written by participants at Peace Hub's 10th anniversary celebration.

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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.

Looking back, looking forward

Peace Hub 10th Anniversary

On Weds 26th Feb 2025 over 35 people gathered at Priory Rooms, to celebrate 10 years of encouraging action for peace, and to share ideas about building peace together as Peace Hub began our new way of working. Over tea and birthday cake, we caught up with familiar faces (including a few who had attended our original launch in 2015) and networked with new people who care about peace and social justice.

2025 has marked the beginning of Peace Hub's new strategy, taking forward the best of what we have done over the past decade and opening up new opportunities. Having laid down the drop-in model, our coordinator has had flexibility to pursue our three strategic 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.

These priorities were identified as part of a 10-year strategic review, and represent the best of what we have done since 2014, and where the greatest potential for growth lies.

Focus Group

With so many possible avenues to encourage action for peace, it is important to stay grounded in our Quaker testimonies. A small group of Friends met monthly online throughout 2025 to explore concerns arising, share mutual support, and inform the direction of Peace Hub's work. With CEQ Peace Committee having been laid down in 2024, this approach integrated the work and approach of the former committee into Peace Hub. With the support of the Coordinator, we have provided a more structured outlet for the deep commitment to peace shared by Friends in this area.

The themes that have emerged include:

- asylum & migrant justice;
- climate justice;
- challenging islamophobia and narratives of division;
- militarism & the arms trade.

Although these arose as discrete concerns, the group is also considering the connections and intersections between these issues. Part of the value that Peace Hub can add is in helping make connections between these themes, building on the approach we have always used in our public displays and materials. In 2025 we took opportunities to connect people from different groups and encourage mutual support, through for example a Changemakers Forum, and an event on Climate Justice and Migrant Justice.

Alongside the regular online meetings, in-person meetings with food in summer and before Christmas helped strengthen the group and nurture the work we are doing as individuals.

Management Committee

Our nominated Peace Hub Management Committee continues to oversee the finance, line management and overall project development. We welcomed Elise Coblentz-Baumann to the committee, bringing a fresh perspective and helpful questions. As CEQ Trustees took responsibility for the building 41 Bull St, the committee's time and energy have been focussed on oversight of the work and witness arising from the leadings of the Focus Group, and how this can be funded sustainably.

Peace Hub Work & Witness 2025

Working with & supporting other groups committed to peace & social justice, through outreach, inreach & networking.

Our coordinator spent the early part of the year networking and thinking about the big picture. We linked with Economic Justice Brum and Huddlecraft to explore Emergent Strategy. With the Ella Baker School of Organising we explored useful tools for challenging narratives of division. These have informed our approach to encouraging action for peace, in particular the power of community building in small groups, while working together on bigger issues.

We have continued to provide support for a range of volunteer-led groups witnessing against the arms trade, including Quaker Roots, Peace Pilgrimage and Stop SDSC. This is proving a successful model for breadth and depth of engagement, on an issue that a growing number of people are concerned about. The Peace Pilgrimage was highly successful, with around 20 core participants joined by day-walkers. One participant described it as a 'laboratory for peace', and there was lots of reflection on the power of occasional, intentional community practicing peace at different levels. The resistance to DSEI facilitated by Quaker Roots and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) was also very successful. A large blockade by other activists meant we were able to engage with delegates and hold a quiet, grounded witness in the midst of a noisy and confrontational protest.



The Peace Pilgrimage stops at Westminster (left) before continuing to the DSEI arms fair, where we held grounded witness (right) in the midst of a noisy and confrontational protest.

We have continued to work with Footsteps (Faiths for a Low Carbon Future) whose recent work has been focussed on grassroots community engagement. We supported a successful community day bringing together families from Ward End with communities in Hay Mills. With good facilitation, this provided a simple model that could be used by community-led group, with light-touch input on the theme (in this case the sun and the environment).

Networking with Brum Climate Justice Coalition and Extinction Rebellion Brum, we have supported creative and engaging protests for system change.

Organising peace events & activities that build on this partnership work.

A Changemakers Forum in April brought together around 20 participants from a diverse range of backgrounds to explore how we can work together using a community organising approach. Bringing together those involved in organisations and campaign groups, with interested individuals and community members helped spark ideas for engaging new people, beyond the 'activist bubble'.

Young Peace Ambassadors was a year-long project with Peacemakers, supporting small groups of year 4 and 5 children from four inner-city schools to run a project to make a difference in their community. At a final event at Priory Rooms, the children came together to share their ideas and get inspiration to keep going with their projects such as a friend-ship, (variation on a friendship bench) and a whole-school campaign linking healthy eating with reducing waste.



Children participate in an activity on emotional literacy as part of the workshops

Peace Cranes workshops were run together with Natsumi Masumoto, a work experience student from Japan on placement with Peacemakers. In her role as an Atomic Bombing Legacy Successor, Natsumi is trained to tell the stories of survivors of Hiroshima, and led an activity making paper cranes. Meanwhile our coordinator facilitated sections of the workshop on emotional literacy and taking actions for peace. The children's engagement was very good, and the workshops received positive feedback from the schools; including that teachers had followed up the workshops with further activities exploring peace, considering how conflict affects people around the world and using the emotional literacy activities to help children process their feelings about this.

We collaborated with Birmingham City of Sanctuary on a short-film night for refugee week, and supported an event they ran hearing the stories of people seeking sanctuary. Both events brought together those who are already concerned about the issue to hear from people with lived experience and connect on a human level, as a spur to our action at a system level. This was developed at a further joint event Stay – Move – Resist, which brought people together from the climate and migrant justice movements to consider how we can better work together and support each other. Participants engaged with a film showing as part of the Our Shared World film festival, which centred the experiences of a Kenyan climate activist and community organiser, and we heard from Shams Musa, a City of sanctuary ambassador, about his lived experience of both climate and migration. Hearing the voices of those directly affected, and their journeys to leadership for justice (rather than being recipients of 'charity') was powerful, and something we aim to build on for future work.

Taking people on a journey from passive to active in this peace work.

Threaded through all of this work is an idea that has been key to Peace Hub from the drop-in days to our new model – of supporting people to reflect on their own concerns and priorities and start taking next steps for action. The partnership work above has supported people at varying levels of engagement, to connect peace within, peace between us, and peace in the world, some with more of a focus on one aspect, others such as the peace pilgrimage or young peace ambassadors, connecting all three. The challenge is reaching out beyond the bubble of people already (at least to some extent) concerned and taking action.

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)

Measuring Impact

Our activities with schools reached over 300 children, while workshops and events we ran in partnerships engaged over 200 adults. Examples of feedback from participants included:

“The workshop was very effective; the variety of listening to new information, working together and making a paper crane worked really well... We made the cranes again and created a display in our classroom. The workshop was also used as part of our PSHE lesson too, when discussing peace and thinking of others feelings.”

“The event created an uplifting spirit of unity and collaboration, showing the value of working together across all walks of life and faith. Other people that I spoke to described it as inspiring and said they hope to see more events like this.”

We also directly supported over 50 people to take part in larger public actions, alongside many hundreds of others. One participant in the Pilgrimage and vigil at the DSEI arms fair commented:

“I have felt more moved to explore the lives of ‘strangers’, empowered by my experiences in that first week of September, when we wandered, conspicuously and purposefully, through rural and urban communities, receiving their hospitality and trust. I am striving to be one small drop in an ocean of peace.”

Part of Peace Hub’s impact is through developing leadership in community-led action for peace. In 2025, through partnerships with Footsteps, Peace Pilgrimage and Peacemakers particularly, we helped build the confidence of emerging leaders to speak authentically and engage people in their own communities and beyond with peace and social justice. Natsumi Masumoto reflected:

“Thanks to [Peace Hub coordinator] Pete’s support, we were able to strike a good balance between addressing a heavy historical topic and engaging the children in lighter, more hopeful activities... Although my English was not perfect, I felt proud that I could share Hiroshima’s history in my own words, and convey the experiences and feelings of the hibakusha [atomic bombing survivor] whose testimony I have studied for the past two years.”

Beyond the direct impact to those we engage, part of Peace Hub’s approach has always been to plant seeds of peace, which may take time to come to fruition. In reflecting on what she had gained from working with Peace Hub and Peacemakers on the Peace Cranes workshops, Natsumi summed up some of the powerful aspects of our approach:

“Planting the seeds of peace-building does not mean forcing children to engage in peace activities or imposing a particular view of peace on them. Everyone begins peace activities for different reasons, and no one starts immediately after learning about peace... The timing of this sprouting—of beginning peace activities—is not “the earlier the better,” nor does its scale need to be global or grand. The goal of “About peace” education is not to make people act quickly or to make them undertake large-scale projects. Nor is its purpose to fill children with vast amounts of information. The greatest achievement of “About peace” education is simply planting a seed of peace in each child.”

While our partnership with Natsumi delivered workshops to primary school children, this comment reflects our approach with teens and adults too – impact we will seek to better measure for future.

CEQ Peace Hub Accounts for 2025

	£ 2025	£ 2024
INCOME		
Peacemakers rent ²	-	7,515
Donations from individuals	3,195	3,923
Donations from Local Meetings/Branches	4,111	2,215
Transfer from Peace Committee	-	6,122
Grants from Trusts	4,000	500
Grants from CEQ Area Meeting ²	3,000	5,000
Funding for Workshops	-	1,000
Other income (including room hire)	1,053	354
Recharges for consultancy work	1,020	803
TOTAL INCOME	16,379	27,432
EXPENDITURE		
Salary	18,966	18,520
Activities		
Workshops	1,988	4,531
Marketing materials & outreach	1,030	
Support costs¹		
Birmingham City Council Rates	-	384
Utilities, cleaning, maintenance	405	4,276
Insurance		
Sundry administrative expenses	-	505
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	22,389	28,216
SURPLUS OF INCOME OVER EXPENDITURE³	(6,010)	(784)
Fund balance brought forward 1 Jan	15,329	16,113
Fund balance carried forward 31 Dec	9,319	15,329
BALANCE SHEET		
Debtors		618
Cash at Bank	9,319	14,711
NET ASSETS³	9,319	15,329

(1) With responsibility for the building and utilities transferred to CEQ Trustees, support costs were greatly reduced. (2) Internal funding within the CEQ charity was rearranged to reflect this, with all funds from CEQ now coming directly as a grant, rather than via Peacemakers as rent.

(3) 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. In 2025 we spent money from Peace Committee on work informed by the Focus Group bringing our reserves back down to our policy level (alongside some restricted funds for schools' workshops).

This means that from 2026 we will be seeking to raise more from Quaker Meetings and trusts in order to maintain our work.

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

We would like to thank all our donors (individuals, Quaker Meetings and trusts) whose support allows our work for peace & social justice to happen. In 2025 we took time to develop our new strategy in practice, and build a track-record for working in this new way. Money from the laid-down Peace Committee allowed us a year to do this, without expending large resources on fundraising. With exciting opportunities to develop our work across our three strategic priorities, in 2026 we will be appealing to Quaker Meetings and trusts for greater funds to allow this work to continue.

Working with & supporting other groups committed to peace & social justice, through outreach, inreach & networking.

More creative protest and engagement is planned at other NEC events ahead of the arms fair coming there in February 2026. Simple banner making for protests at the February fair could be an activity at the CEQ groups fayre in January, and a creative action that people can participate in from anywhere is planned to target the company that organises the DSEI arms fair.

Ideas are emerging for a round-table on the issue of climate and migration with some of the organisations represented at the workshop in November and inviting others. The leader of a local community group is interested in showing the film from that event, and exploring the idea of community-led action with her regular participants.

Organising peace events & activities that build on this partnership work.

A workshop on challenging narratives of division is planned with CEQ Responding to Racism for February 2026, building on a successful Area Meeting session on hope and solidarity in our communities with ideas for simple action.

Building on the success of the Peace Pilgrimage, we will work with the group to help nurture leadership, spread the burden of organising, so that the model can become sustainable. We will also explore other ways to create 'occasional, intentional community for peace' for those for whom a week of walking is not feasible / attractive.

Taking people on a journey from passive to active in this peace work.

We are pleased to have received funding from the South Birmingham Friends Institute Fund of the Heart of England Trust for a series of workshops for 2026. These will seek specifically to support people who do not currently see themselves as 'activists', taking them on a journey to feel more confident to take action for peace and social justice. Once a month, in-person meetings facilitated by our coordinator will look at: understanding what values and issues are important to us; different ways to make change and empowering ourselves to start taking action; emotional engagement and building the support to keep going. Buddy groups will support each other; explore ideas that the sessions have raised; and encourage each other to act on any next-steps.