

Dear Friends — Are you hiding your light under a bushel?

[“... neither do men light a candle and put it under a bushel, but on a candlestick; and it giveth light unto all ... let your light so shine ...” Matthew: V: 15-16]

Would you like to be helpful to the Area Quaker Meeting?

Unlike other churches, we have no paid clergy — we all share the responsibility for Quaker work. And our “ministry” isn’t only a matter of speaking in Meeting; it is everything we do in serving the Society, from making the tea and arranging the chairs, to sharing our understanding of Quakerism with other people, and taking responsibility for all kinds of jobs that help the Area Quaker Meeting to run smoothly and effectively.

There’s a lot of work to be done, and there’s no one except you and me to do it.

We all have a variety of **gifts** and **interests** and **experience**, and there are all sorts of jobs to be done. So don’t be shy!

If you are free to offer them, your special gifts and interests and experience would be very welcome to the Area Quaker Meeting. Or — perhaps because of pressure of work or other commitments — you may not feel able to give any help now, but sometime in the future you may have more time, and then you could share in the work of the Meeting.

There’s a wide variety of things to be done. Some jobs would take up very little of your time, others would require commitment over a longer period; it’s helpful, in certain areas, to have some experience already — but most of the work simply requires loving service and common sense and a willingness to learn.

We all have different interests, too; you may enjoy deepening and developing these interests in the service of the Area Quaker Meeting.

Here are some of the areas where your help or your experience or your special concerns might be appropriate; think about them bravely! There might be something here for you!

- Are you interested in **administration**? We have a wide range here, including the work generated by our various Quaker properties.
- Or good at **accounts**?
- Or in developing our **peace witness**?
- What about **social justice**? There’s a wide range of issues in this field — including education, housing, the criminal justice system, drugs and alcohol addiction, the environment, *etc.*
- Do you enjoy working with **children** or **young people**?
- What about **publicity** — would you enjoy activities that help us to be better known locally, such as organizing workshops or conferences or exhibitions?
- Are you interested in working with **other churches**?
- Or what about **inter-faith issues**, or **multi-cultural concerns**?
- We need representatives from time to time to attend **conferences** of various kinds and report back to the Area Quaker Meeting. Sometimes these are day conferences, sometimes they’re weekends — an excellent opportunity to meet other Quakers!

What should you do now?

The Area Quaker Meeting has a Nominations Committee, whose responsibility is tenderly to try to find the right person for the right job. If, after thinking about this paper, you feel you would like to consider serving the Meeting in any way, and you'd be free to do so either **soon** (in the next 6-12 months) or sometime **in the future**, please complete the slip below and hand it to your Local Meeting Clerk. Nominations Committee would really appreciate your help. You may not be invited to do anything immediately, but it would help us enormously to know the sort of thing you might feel happy to do.

Of course you will want to know exactly what you're in for — how much time might be involved in any particular role, what precisely you'd have to do, and indeed what you might find enjoyable — if you were to offer yourself. So please don't hesitate to ask for more information from your Local Meeting Clerk.

My name and Local Meeting

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I'm interested in (*eg a particular job, or a particular area of work*)

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I'd like to know a little more about

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I have some experience in (*don't feel you have to answer this one — you don't have to have any experience for most roles*)

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I'd be free to serve quite soon / later

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