

## Draft Statement on the Life of the Meeting Nether Edge Quakers 2018

Over the past year the meeting has grown considerably. There are regularly more than 12 members and attenders at Meeting on a Sunday morning. Younger people have attended our meeting and made significant contributions to the meeting until moving on to take up education away from Sheffield. But we continue to attract a good number of younger people, and soon expect to have a new baby as an attender!

We continue to maintain contact with our friend Matthew in China. Members from other meetings have joined Nether Edge Meeting. One Friend has just completed the process of becoming a member.

We continue to meet every Sunday morning at 10.30. There is a monthly reading from Advices and Queries. There is also a monthly general reading. We have a period of time for reflection after meeting for worship. We have a program of discussions on parts of Quaker Faith and Practice. The meeting is followed by coffee, tea and cakes with one Friend frequently bringing a rich variety of home baked cakes. Established members and attenders work at engaging with new attenders. We have recently reinstituted the monthly shared lunch.

On the social front there has been a walk for Friends in the Peak District over the summer.

There has been a lunch for Friends after Meeting at a local pub just before Christmas. There has been a coffee afternoon for Friends at the house of one of our Friends.

The Meeting has held an Away Day with the aim of "Seeking to know each other in ways that are eternal". This was held at the Bamford Quaker Community. Fourteen Friends attended, some long standing members and attenders and some new friends. We did some work to explore our spirituality through conversation, discussion, games and practical work. We held a meeting to evaluate the away day and are planning to make this a regular annual event.

We have organised an outreach event to introduce interested members of the public to Quakers. This was put on in Quaker week. Three Quakers told us of their Quaker journeys. This was followed by questions and answers and a short meeting for worship. It was well attended and at least 8 people were previously unknown to us. One of these people has attended some of our Meetings for Worship since the event. The publicity for this meeting also provided an opportunity to inform a wider number of people about Quakers, who may pursue their interest at a later time.

Friends have been involved in reaching out to members of other faiths and other churches. We continue to foster close links with St. Andrews Psalter Lane church. We have continued the tradition of our meeting attending a service at St Andrews and St Andrews Coming to Nether Edge meeting for worship on a yearly basis. Friends continue to foster links with the wider Quaker community. This includes: Britain Yearly Meeting, Service on national BYM committees, Northern Friends Peace Board, Young Friends General Meeting and Europe and Middle East Young

Friends. Nether Edge Friends have organised a Quaker presence at Christians at Pride. Friends have worked with Central Sheffield Friends to organise and perform in The Room for More Event.

Nether Edge Elders and Overseers had a meeting with Elders and Overseers at Central Meeting over the summer.

Friends are actively involved in witnessing to Quaker testimonies in the wider world.

Our bi monthly Meeting for Worship for Business is well attended.

Elders and Overseers continue to support the Clerks in the right ordering of MfWfB and we ensure there is always an Elder at Sunday morning MfW.

We are continually mindful of our duties and responsibilities as outlined in QF and P Section 12.12.