



# Stories

## Our story: Stourbridge Quaker Meeting

[Stourbridge Quaker Meeting](#) is one of 16 Quaker Meetings within Central England Quakers. Quakers have no set creed, and a diversity of individual beliefs, but unite around Quaker “Testimonies”, such as Equality & Justice, Peace, Truth & Integrity, Simplicity & Sustainability. This focus on “faith in action” has characterised Quaker work and witness for over 300 years, and naturally aligns Quakers with the [Money Makes Change Pledge](#) to work “for a fairer, more sustainable world”.



Stourbridge is a medium size Meeting, with an average Sunday attendance of 25 to 30 members and attenders. It has its own bank account and investments, and autonomy over its day-to-day decision making. Sources of income include contributions from members and room hire. Roughly half our annual income is spent on the expenses of the Meeting and the other half is passed to various Quaker and other beneficiaries that we are committed to supporting.

With regard to the [Money Makes Change Pledge](#) Action Area themes, this is where we are at the moment:-

*Where our treasure is:* We bank with an ethical bank and invest in the CCLA COIF Charities Ethical Investment Fund. We give away in charitable gifts all money that is surplus to our reserves target. We involve the whole Meeting in the setting of annual budgets, including the gifts that we make.

*Learning and sharing:* Our small children’s group encourages us to fundraise for causes with which they identify. We support members of our Meeting who work with disadvantaged communities in Uganda and Palestine, and two members of the Meeting tour the country as a Theatre Company performing plays relating to Quaker concerns. We are involved with local schools and Churches Together Stourbridge and have hosted meetings with both on money and sustainability. We are a “Sanctuary Meeting”, aiming to make strangers welcome in our local community, and we support refugees and asylum seekers individually and through a local Welcome Centre.

*Spending power:* We evaluate all suppliers for ethical, environmental and living wage credentials, and purchase electricity from a 100% renewable supplier. We are part of the Fairtrade movement, minimising use of plastics and maximise recycling. We received from A Rocha UK, in 2018, a Bronze Eco Church Award for our “efforts to care for God’s earth”.

*Speaking out:* We support a local debt counselling service and the local food bank, and frequently communicate with local MPs on ethical matters. We campaign locally, regionally and nationally (in partnership with other organisations) on climate emergency and other economic justice and human rights concerns, such as the Stop the Arms Fair in September 2019.

James Bradbury, Treasurer, comments “we still have much to do, and the work is never done, but we have a shared sense of purpose in living out our faith and values, as we take this work forward”.



**Money  
Makes  
Change**