

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)**

**West Scotland Area Meeting**

(Scottish Charity No: SC011234)

**What can we contribute in 2023?**

As interest rates and energy costs spiral, many of us will be feeling the financial “pinch”. However, as Friends and attenders we still need to support the work of our Society to the extent that we are able. In order to keep the Society running we need the help and generosity of Friends’ contributions. We are asked, not to give equally, but to give with equal generosity, and to bear this in mind as we consider our financial contribution in 2023. Some will be able to give less this year - others amongst us may be able to give more - so the sums suggested below are given simply as guidance.

There are three levels at which our financial support is needed, and we can give to all three via this Contribution Schedule if we wish.

**West Scotland Area Meeting (AM)**

Our Area Meeting:

* helps to support our meetings and our role-holders by paying for training, courses, conferences, and our newsletter, West Scotland Quaker News;
* contributes to Britain Yearly Meeting, and to General Meeting for Scotland, which nurtures the community of Friends in Scotland. Via General Meeting, West Scotland AM contributes to the salary costs of both our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, and our Local Development Worker, Zoe Prosser.
* contributes to Northern Friends Peace Board, to Summer Shindig (the annual event for our teenagers), to Friends World Committee for Consultation, and to Quaker Council for European Affairs.
* pays for insurance on behalf of all our Local Meetings, our Meeting House in Glasgow, and the costs of professional advice to ensure good governance of our AM and compliance with charity regulations.
* is able to provide some financial support for Friends in crisis.

Our Area Meeting needs at least an average of £100 per member in 2023 (less than £2 per week) to cover these costs.

**Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM)**

It is BYM which, in addition to providing support to Meetings all around the country, also carries out the work in the world which we as Friends have discerned needs to be done: from campaigning for a just and sustainable world, to practical action on peace-building and education. BYM also contributes to the costs of our Local Development Worker and our Parliamentary Engagement Officer who works on our behalf with the Scottish Government. A great deal more information about the work of BYM and the ways in which your contribution is used is provided in the leaflet “Building Hope for a Peaceful World” which will either accompany this Schedule or can be obtained from your LM treasurer or the AM treasurer.

Britain Yearly Meeting saw its income from lettings and hospitality through Friends House and Swarthmore Hall drop dramatically during the pandemic and has had to dig deeply into reserves. To maintain the Society’s witness and work BYM needs an average contribution of around £240 per member in 2023. Of this, West Scotland AM will make a donation to BYM amounting to just over £25 per member.

**Glasgow Local Meeting (LM)**

Our Local Meeting is responsible for supporting Friends in their worship and witness:

* Our Meeting House is the basis for much of our Quaker life and work and its operation and maintenance is one of our chief costs. We employ staff to help us look after the building and organise hirings to the groups that use our premises.
* We support Interfaith Glasgow, the Scottish Refugee Council and the Quaker Council for European Affairs by subscription as well as by individual Friends’ involvement
* We support Friends working through other organisations (e.g.Just Stop Oil and Food not Bombs) in line with our testimonies by allowing access to our premises for meetings and other necessary preparations and reflections
* We encourage and support Friends in their spiritual development through providing support for attendance at Quaker events and courses and through regular additions to the library

Glasgow LM needs £350 per member in 2022 to carry out this work.

**Finally, a reminder and clarification:**

If you have already completed a Contribution Schedule recently, have a standing order set up, and do not wish to change your instructions, there is no need to complete another Schedule. The Assistant Treasurer already has your instructions and will continue to carry them out until you inform her otherwise. However if you do wish to change the amount you give, or the way in which your contribution is distributed, please submit another Schedule.

 **GIFT AID**

If you are a taxpayer, you can increase your donation by allowing us to claim back relevant tax from HMRC through the Gift Aid Scheme. This will add 25% to the value of your donation, which will be distributed according to the allocations you have made in the Contribution Schedule.

However,you must have paid enough tax to cover your Gift Aid, otherwise you will be liable to pay back HMRC for the amount wrongly claimed. If your circumstances change and you are no longer a taxpayer, or if you have other queries about Gift Aid, please contact: Bronwen Currie, Treasurer: West Scotland Area Meeting. Phone: 01496 850006, 07585 942021 or email: bron.currie@gmail.com

**A Gift Aid declaration form** can be obtained either from Bronwen as above, or from the Assistant Treasurer, Helen McLean – details on the Schedule on the next page.

**West Scotland Area Meeting**

**CONTRIBUTION SCHEDULE 2023**

**How to give:**

You can contribute to all the bodies mentioned overleaf through this Contribution Schedule. This allows you to specify how your donation should be assigned and we will then allocate your donation in accordance to your wishes.

**Name** ……………………………… **Email address:** ………………………...…………………

Starting from ……………(insert date) my contribution will be £ ………. per month / quarter / year\*

 (\*please delete as appropriate)

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| I wish my contribution to be allocated in this way: |  |
| West Scotland Area Meeting | £ ………………… |
| ………………………………Local Meeting (insert name)  | £ ………………… |
| Britain Yearly Meeting | £ ………………… |
| I shall make my payment by:  |
| *(Please indicate)*  | [ ]  Cheque |
|  | [ ]  Standing Order/BACS payment |
|  | [ ]  CAF Voucher |
| Please indicate:  |
| * If you would like a Standing Order mandate form [ ]
 |
| * If you would like a Gift Aid declaration form [ ]
 |

**If paying by BACS or by Standing Order**, our bank details are:

Religious Society of Friends West Scotland Area Meeting

Sort Code 80-91-29 Account No. 00724947

Please give your name as reference and return this completed schedule to our Assistant Treasurer, Helen McLean, at the address below so that we can identify your payment and allocate your contribution as you would wish.

**To change an existing Standing Order, please make the necessary arrangements with your bank and return this completed schedule to Helen so that we know of your changes and any new allocation. If you wish to change your donation during the year, please inform Helen of the change in order to allocate according to your wishes.**

**If paying by cheque or CAF voucher**, please make it payable to:

“Religious Society of Friends West Scotland Area Meeting”

and send with this completed schedule to our Assistant Treasurer, Helen McLean, at the address below.

**Helen McLean, 12A Sheean Drive, Brodick, Isle of Arran, KA27 8DH**

**email:** **hm920346@gmail.com**

Helen will be able to answer any queries you may have about your donation.