

Northern Friends Peace Board centenary display, 1913-2013

1913-2013 - The first 100 years

The beginning

At a peace conference in York in January 1913, the Northern Friends Peace Board was set up by the six northern Quaker Quarterly Meetings "to advise and encourage Friends in the North, and through them their fellow Christians and citizens generally in the active promotion of peace in all its height and breadth."

WHERE THE "LUST OF MONEY BETRAYS" HUMANITY — THE PRIVATE MANUFACTURE AND SALE OF ARMAMENTS — LIKE THE GOVERNMENT STOP IT!

1913

1914

The First World War

Within a few months the First World War had broken out, testing the resolve of the fledgling organization. Their ability to meet was affected by transport restrictions, but they still published posters and pamphlets. They decided to ignore the regulations that these be submitted to the Censor.

NEVER AGAIN

LET US KEEP FEAR FROM THE WAR TO THE END AND KEEP FEAR FROM DEATH AND HELL FROM POSSIBLE

1914

1919

1920

Between the wars

MFPO made determined efforts to share its vision with the wider pacifist community and with other churches. Their archive of posters and leaflets is a lasting record of the scale of activity in the 1920s and 1930s. Many thousands were distributed in Britain and abroad, focusing mainly on issues of disarmament and pacifism and its basis in faith, love and common humanity.

FORCE MAY SUBDUCE BUT LOVE GAINS

1924

1931

1934

1938

The Second World War

Friends drew on their experience of working under dire conditions. Although travel and resource restrictions they faced retained social and political pressures. Posters show a change of tone, stating principles from a moral basis.

A Whole Peace needs All its Parts

NOTICE TO FRIENDS OF 11-11 IN PAUSE TO REMEMBER THE MILITARY DEAD

1938

1941

1942

1944

Nuclear Weapons and new world order

The horror of atomic weapons faced humanity with a new and new moral challenge. The Board articulated a message of hope, without which the ravages of war cannot be healed.

KEEP THE CLOUDS their natural shape AND YOUR CHILDREN's troubled heart in body and mind

Conscription

1946

1947

1950

1958

East-West tensions

Deeply concerned about continuing mutual suspicion in international affairs, MFPO built strong links with networks like the International Peace Bureau.

DISARMAMENT THE ONLY DEFENCE

1918

1950

From fear to bridge-building

After North-South-wide "Orange and Green" with Northern Irish Quaker David Barrell. The book, which was reprinted in several editions, became an important resource as 'The Troubles' built up, even being loaned to British soldiers deployed in the province.

ORANGE & GREEN

NORTHERN IRELAND

Swords a Quaker View of Britain

1969

1976

1980

1983

Change and refocus

After the very demanding period of East-West work, a time of reflection took place, after which links with Quaker Meetings in the North and Quaker projects were strengthened and restored. A return to its founding Mission saw MFPO take a broader approach to peace which encompassed social and environmental concerns.

STAR WARS AND THE Spiritual Challenge

THE FRIEND

1986

1988

1989

Peace dividend?

The post-cold-war promise of a 'peace dividend' rarely materialised. The 'What is my name?' badges produced by MFPO in the build-up to the 1995 Gulf War was probably the last use of that phrase, widely adopted again when Britain was led into war against Iraq.

We must reclaim the ability to live together in harmony in our fragile and endangered world

1991

1994

1997

2000

Looking forward

As we enter our centenary year, we reflect on the breadth and variety of MFPO's work and other Quaker action for peace, affirmed in resources such as the 1994 video 'Visions of Peace' and in 'The Peace Paper', published in 2000.

VISIONS OF PEACE

BUILDING PEACE TACKLING RACISM

1995

2000

2011

2013

This display is available on A1 panels (841 x 594 mm) with velcro mounts. We will also be producing versions on A3 laminated sheets. Contact us if you would like to borrow either size or to buy a set of the A3 version nfpb@gn.apc.org 01204 382330 If you would like to have the display as part of a bigger event on Quakers and peace, we would be pleased to discuss this.