Charity Number: SC 024632

Northern Friends Peace Board

Report and financial statements
For the year ended 31st December 2025

Northern Friends Peace Board

Reference and administrative information
for the year ended 31 December 2025

Charity number SC 024632

Registered office and operational address

Quaker Meeting House, 50 Silverwell Street, Bolton BL1 1PP

Trustees Trustees who served during the year and up to the date of this report were as follows:

Alan Frith
Till Geiger
Jayne Meadows (Clerk)
Peter Speirs
Deryck Hillas (Treasurer)
Jennie White

Key management personnel

Philip Austin	Coordinator
Steven Waling	Administrative Assistant

Bankers The Cooperative Bank, Olympic House, Montford Court, Salford, M5 2QP
Ecology Building Society. 7 Belton Road, Silsden, Keighley BD20 0EE

Independent Examiner

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA
Slade & Cooper Limited
Beehive Mill, Jersey St, Ancoats, Manchester, M4 6JG

Northern Friends Peace Board

Report of Trustees

for the year ended 31 December 2025

The Northern Friends Peace Board Trustees submit their report and accounts for the period 1st January – 31st December 2025.

Trustees confirm that the accounts comply with current statutory requirements and the charity's constitution.

Charity Objectives and Principal Activities

The objective of Northern Friends Peace Board (NFPB) is the advancement, within its areas of operation, of the principles of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) with special reference to the testimony against all wars, and through promoting peace, justice and care for the environment. This arises from the charity's original mandate: "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." It undertakes activities to this end.

When planning the charity's activities for the year, Trustees considered the guidance of the Charity Commission and of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator on public benefit. Trustees are committed to reaching as many people as possible through its work, both members and attenders of the Society of Friends as well as people of other faiths and perspectives on the world.

A. Continuing Objectives and activities

	Objectives	Activities
1	Arranging Board meetings to take place.	Meetings of our members were arranged and took place, all as hybrid meetings. Those joining in-person met in Nottingham, Edinburgh, York and Liverpool Meeting Houses. Invited speakers were Russell Whiting of the UK branch of the Global Campaign on Military Spending; Dixé Wills from Quakers in Britain; Rachel Julian, Professor of Peace Studies at Leeds Beckett University and Diana Jeater, Professor of African Studies at the University of Liverpool. At each of our meetings, we were pleased to be joined by a number of Friends from the locality and were provided with warm welcomes and hospitality.

	The meetings served as valuable opportunities for Friends to consider the challenging national and global context for our work, to hear reports of Quaker and other activities and to consider priorities for NFPB's future work.
2 Continuing to strengthen the Board and Trustees as a community, developing the clerking team, providing opportunities for joint action as well as discussion and worship.	The Clerks and Coordinator were assisted in planning our members' meetings by a newly-established arrangements group. As described above, members were fully involved during our meetings in considering the range of work that we undertake and to give guidance on future priorities. Trustees' continued to meet informally on a monthly basis, which has enabled them to keep up to date with the work and keep in touch with one another outside of the formal meetings. NFPB members were also involved in working with the Coordinator in planning and delivering workshops for Friends in York and Stocksfield.
3 Contributing to a number of other Quaker and non-Quaker events around the country, including Britain Yearly Meeting.	NFPB planned and ran a special interest group meeting ahead of the annual gathering of Britain Yearly Meeting in May. We also set up and hosted a stall at the 'Groups' Fair' during the weekend meeting. Throughout the year we participated in the monthly online meetings of the Peace and Service Network of the Friends World Committee for Consultation's Europe and Middle East Section, as well as participating (online due to ill-health) in the annual weekend gathering of that Network.
4 Arranging regular mailings to Local Quaker Meetings and Area Meetings. Producing regular Peace Round-up newsletters and other resources.	We produced two issues of the NFPB Update in the first half of the year and four issues of the Peace Round-up. From August, we combined these two resources into a bi-monthly *NFPB Bulletin.* In total, this is distributed to around 450 email addresses, including those for Quaker Meetings, other peace and Quaker organisations and individuals. Three issues of the *NFPB Bulletin* were published, in August, October and December.
5 Maintaining and building on NFPB's current working relationships with a range of peace and	Our main working relationships continued to be with Rethinking Security, the Global Campaign on Military Spending (GCOMS) and the Network of Christian Peace Organisations (NCPO). We supported the work of Rethinking Security's Outreach Group during the year, attending meetings of that group and the full Council in person and online. Our Coordinator also continued to

Quaker organisations and groups.	serve on the steering/core groups of GCOMS and NCPO, helping arrange meetings and to guide their work. This year the Coordinator also served on an ad-hoc group convened by Christian Aid to support their work in developing resources for Churches to inform and promote work for a just peace in Palestine and Israel.

B. Objectives and activities for the period

1. Completing work on our publication and getting it widely distributed and read.	We published *Quaker Responses to War,* a 70-page book in May, being a collection of Quakers sharing experience, insights and reflections, particularly in relation to the wars in Ukraine and Gaza. We promoted and sold this during Britain Yearly Meeting, as well as through the Quaker Bookshop, via our website and at a number of other events. We had sold more than two thirds of our print-run of 300 copies by the end of the year. Publication of the expanded companion e-book had not been completed by the end of the year, due to personal circumstances affecting the person undertaking the editorial work.
2. Offering and running workshops and other regional events.	Material from the book was used in a workshop for Friends in Northumbria Area Meeting in September. We also ran a workshop for Friends in York Area Meeting in March, and another for an interfaith event in November.
3. Continuing efforts to apply for funding for specific areas of work and encourage individual giving and legacy contributions	We were successful in our application for funding to the Edith M Ellis Charitable Trust, to enable us to arrange and run an event in June 2026 for Friends to engage with issues around contemporary understanding and experiences of the Quaker peace testimony.
4. Start planning for change in working arrangements with Coordinator's retirement expected around the end of 2026.	Trustees set up a staffing sub-group, which had 10 meetings during the year, both online and in-person. The group reviewed current working arrangements and practicalities, recruitment processes and a timetable for the same and began work on a job description and

	person-specification. The group had a number of helpful pieces of external input, including from a staff member with recruitment experience from Quakers in Britain and an outgoing employee of a similar-sized peace organisation. The Board appointed Tracey Martin to serve on the sub-group as a Coopted member for 18 months. The group reported on its work to the full Board in November. The Coordinator identified a range of objectives and tasks to undertake during his final year in post to enable a smooth handover.
5. Supporting Friends in consideration of and action on the Peace Testimony, arising from Britain Yearly Meeting's focus this year during its weekend meeting in late May.	As referenced above, our work has included publication of *Responses to War,* running a number of workshops and continued work to develop our website as a starting point for resources. Our Members' meetings also included time for Friends to reflect deeply on some of the considerable challenges in the world and our responses to these.
6. Developing the wider involvement of members in taking our work forward – eg. with the Board meeting arrangements group	The contribution of our members, including trustees and NFPB Representatives has already been mentioned above. Further work was being developed in the last two months of the year, with a new working group appointed to arrange and deliver the Peace Testimony event for which we had been awarded additional funding.

FUTURE PLANS

A. Continuing Objectives

Objectives for the previous year listed above are continued.

B. Specific Objectives for 2026

1. Planning and delivering the Peace Testimony event in June
2. Recruitment of new Coordinator and working with them and current Coordinator for a handover during the Autumn
3. Continuing to explore further funding opportunities and to keep in communication with Area Meetings and other current groups and individuals that provide financial support
4. Reviewing work priorities and networking commitments in anticipation of reduced staff capacity from January 2027
5. Recruitment of trustees and other role-holders

Financial Review and Results

Our income from individual donations and financial contributions for Local and Area Quaker Meetings was above the level for which trustees had budgeted due to a modest increase in income from Quaker Area Meetings and the receipt of a grant donation for a project to be delivered in 2026. Trustees had suggested a figure of £10 per member of each Area Quaker Meeting for financial contributions. The charity's travel and accommodation costs increased from the previous year but were again below pre-pandemic levels as a result of online and hybrid working practices. We continued to draw on reserves to make up a difference between income and expenditure. We were pleased to note that that gap was smaller than we had anticipated.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

Risk assessment

Trustees undertook a thorough risk assessment, reviewing the charity's risks and identifying courses of action arising from that assessment.

Trustees have assessed the financial and operating outlook and consider that the charity is a going concern. Trustees had contacted Area Meetings at the end of the 2024 and suggested that financial contributions to support our work should again be at £10 per member during 2025, whilst being conscious of inflationary pressures and the likely need to increase this again in future years.

Reserves Policy

In July 2021 Trustees agreed that the charity should endeavour to hold in its reserves the equivalent of twelve months' running costs, based on the period of notice required for the termination of the charity's Co-ordinator's employment and any winding up costs associated with that. The charity's current reserves exceed this margin. Trustees shall be drawing on the charity's reserves to cover the anticipated deficit in 2026 but in the medium to longer-term hope to reduce the amount being drawn on in this way through appeals to Quakers and grant-funding applications in particular and by reducing staffing costs. Trustees will draw on reserves to develop project work when necessary. A proportion of our funds is invested in ethical portfolios, to help maintain the value of these funds and to generate some additional income.

Structure, governance and management

The area of operation of the Board is primarily that covered by the Area Meetings of Britain Yearly Meeting in Scotland, North Wales and Northern England. Its constitution is governed by the Law of Scotland and is registered as a charity with the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator. The Board maintains an office in Bolton. It employs a full-time Co-ordinator and a part-time Administrative Assistant. Philip Austin and Steven Waling, Co-ordinator and Administrative Assistant respectively, undertook the finance-related administrative work. Philip Austin continued his co-ordinating role in relation to all other areas of the work of the Board and its trustees. Their work was undertaken chiefly from our office, with a smaller amount also undertaken from their homes.

Procedures of the Board and its committees follow the general counsel on church affairs set out in *Quaker Faith and Practice.* The Trustees work is guided by the meetings of all Board members, including Representatives of all Northern Area Meetings and co-opted members, each of whom is appointed for specific purposes. The full Board meets three or four times per calendar year and its trustees meet at least four times per year. The Board's various sub groups meet at different times, reporting to the Board and to Trustees.

The law requires Trustees to prepare financial statements for each financial year which give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the charity and of the incoming resources of the year and the application of resources of the charity for that period. In preparing those financial statements, Trustees are required to:

1. select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently,
2. make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent,
3. state whether applicable accounting standards have been followed, subject to any material departures disclosed and explained in the financial statements,
4. prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to presume that the charity will continue in business.

Trustees are responsible for keeping proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charity and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with applicable accounting standards. They are also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charity and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Trustees during the period covered were Alan Frith, Till Geiger Deryck Hillas (Treasurer), Jayne Meadows (Clerk to Trustees from January 2025), Jennie White and Peter Speirs. Friends are appointed as Trustees both from the membership of the Board and from amongst Northern Friends as co-opted members. Alan Frith and Suzanne Wilson were reappointed to serve as Clerks to the Board. Trustees held five formal meetings – four online and one in-person – with informal monthly meetings and contacts between trustees and staff throughout the year. Trustees plan to have one of their meetings in person during 2026, other meetings being held online.

By Order of the Trustees and signed on its behalf by:

Deryck Hillas (Treasurer) Jayne Meadows (Clerk to Trustees)

Date _____

Independent examiner's report

to the trustees of

Northern Friends Peace Board

I report to the charity trustees on my examination of the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31st December 2025 which are set out on pages 10 to 14.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities

Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended). The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the 2006 Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention,

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 9 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Jennifer Daniel FCCA DChA

Slade & Cooper Limited, Chartered Certified Accountants
Beehive Mill, Jersey Street,
Manchester, M4 6JG

Date: _____

Northern Friends Peace Board

Receipts and Payments Account
for the year ended 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Receipts					
Donations		42,424	-	42,424	*37,811*
Legacies		-	-	-	*4,327*
Grants		-	2,500	2,500	*5,500*
Gross receipts from other charitable activities	3	1,756	-	1,756	*70*
Income from investments other than land and buildings	4	3,273	-	3,273	*4,750*
Sub-total		**47,453**	**2,500**	**49,953**	***52,458***
Total receipts		**47,453**	**2,500**	**49,953**	***52,458***
Payments					
Payments relating directly to charitable activities	5	59,259	-	59,259	*55,821*
Governance costs:					
Independent examination		360	-	360	*350*
Preparation of annual accounts		960	-	960	*898*
Payroll		205	-	205	*176*
Total payments		**60,784**	**-**	**60,784**	***57,245***
Net receipts / (payments) before transfers		**(13,331)**	**2,500**	**(10,831)**	***(4,787)***
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net receipts / payments		**(13,331)**	**2,500**	**(10,831)**	***(4,787)***

Northern Friends Peace Board

Statement of balances
as at 31 December 2025

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds 2025 £	*Total funds 2024 £*
Cash funds					
Bank and cash balances at start of year		77,915	-	77,915	*82,702*
Surplus / (deficit) shown on receipts and payments account		(13,331)	2,500	(10,831)	*(4,787)*
Bank and cash balances at end of year		**64,584**	**2,500**	**67,084**	***77,915***

Investments	Fund	Market valuation 2025	*2024*
Investment portfolio	Unrestricted	39,328	*38,223*

Other assets	Fund	2025	*2024*
Stock of goods for resale	Unrestricted	1,364	*1,338*
Computer and office equipment	Unrestricted	1,546	*1,881*
Total other assets		**2,910**	**3,219**

Approved by the trustees on / /2026 and signed on their behalf by:

Deryck Hillas (Treasurer)

1 Basis of accounting

These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006 (as amended).

2 Fund accounting

Unrestricted funds are available to spend on activities that further any of the purposes of charity.

Restricted funds are donations which the donor has specified are to be solely used for particular areas of the charity's work or for specific projects being undertaken by the charity.

3 Receipts from charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	*2024 £*
Workshop fees and sales	1,756	-	1,756	67
Other income	-	-	-	3
	1,756	-	1,756	*70*

All income from charitable activities is unrestricted.

4 Investment receipts

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	*2024 £*
Bank interest	1,291	-	1,291	*1,863*
Dividends	1,982	-	1,982	*2,887*
	3,273	-	3,273	*4,750*

All investment income is unrestricted.

5 Payments relating directly to charitable activities

	Unrestricted £	Restricted £	2025 £	*2024 £*
Staff costs	51,485	-	51,485	*49,058*
Premises	3,297	-	3,297	*3,113*
Publicity	138	-	138	*69*
Office costs	2,442	-	2,442	*2,504*
Travel and accommodation	1,897	-	1,897	*1,077*
	59,259	-	59,259	*55,821*

All Expenditure on charitable activities is unrestricted.

6 Trustee remuneration and expenses, and related party transactions

None of the trustees nor any persons connected with them received any remuneration during the year .

Six (2024:seven) trustees received travel and subsistence expenses during the year of £725 (2024:£600.33)

During the year, Till Geiger, a trustee of the charity, received £nil (2024:£400) as payment for editing work done for the charity during the year.

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity, including guarantees, during the year.

7 Analysis of movement in restricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 December 2025 £
Mollie Croysdale Charitable Trust	100	-	-	-	100
Edith Maud Ellis 1985 Trust	-	2,500	-	-	2,500
	100	2,500	-	-	2,600

8 Analysis of movement in unrestricted funds

	Balance at 1 January 2025 £	Receipts £	Payments £	Transfers £	As at 31 December 2025 £
General fund	77,815	47,453	(60,784)	-	64,484

Previous reporting period	*Balance at 1 January 2024 £*	*Receipts £*	*Payments £*	*Transfers £*	*As at 31 December 2024 £*
General fund	*82,702*	*51,958*	*(56,845)*	-	*77,815*
	82,702	*51,958*	*(56,845)*	-	*77,815*

Name of fund	**Description, nature and purposes of the fund**
General fund	Bank and cash balances available for general charitable activities.