

Central England  
Quakers

# Meeting Houses of Central England Quakers **Heritage Survey**



Based on the national Quaker meeting house heritage survey undertaken in 2015 by the Architectural History Practice commissioned by Britain Yearly Meeting (Quakers) and Historic England.



**AHP** Architectural  
History  
Practice



Historic England



# Contents

## Acknowledgements and copyright

Central England Quakers would like to thank Historic England who provided the greater part of the funding for the national Quaker meeting house survey as part of its Taking Stock programme. Thanks are also due to the local Central England Quakers volunteers who gathered together heritage material about their meeting houses in preparation for the heritage survey visit by the Architectural History Practice.

Emma Neil from the Architectural History Practice visited each Central England Quakers meeting house and wrote a full heritage assessment report. Editing these reports and producing this booklet was undertaken by Chris Martin, clerk of the Central England Quakers trustees' property committee, with assistance from Esther Boyd and James Bradbury.

The Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) holds the copyright of the contents of this booklet that are not already in the public domain. The photographs, unless otherwise acknowledged, were taken by Architectural History Practice.

## Further reading

The full heritage reports for each meeting house are available via the Historic England and Britain Yearly Meeting websites. Published information sources for each Central England Quakers meeting house survey report are listed at the end of each chapter.

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), is a comprehensive account of some 1,300 Quaker meeting houses, past and present, and 900 burial grounds. It is also a research guide to sources.

Introduction .....	2
Summary .....	3
Timeline .....	6
History .....	7
Barnt Green .....	8
Bournville .....	12
Bull Street .....	18
Cotteridge .....	22
Coventry .....	28
Edgbaston .....	32
Hall Green .....	36
Hartshill .....	40
Kings Heath .....	46
Northfield .....	50
Redditch .....	54
Selly Oak .....	58
Stourbridge .....	62
Sutton Coldfield .....	66
Warwick .....	70
Central England Quakers in 2017 .....	75

## Contact information

Central England Quakers  
Area Meeting Office  
40 Bull Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6AF

[ceqam@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ceqam@quaker.org.uk)

0121 236 2644

# Introduction

IN 2015 THE Architectural History Practice was commissioned by the Britain Yearly Meeting Quakers and Historic England to undertake a heritage survey of the architectural and cultural significance of all the Quaker Meeting Houses in England. This booklet contains abbreviated reports for the survey of the 15 meeting houses in Central England Quakers area meeting. The full heritage reports for each meeting house are available via the Historic England and Britain Yearly Meeting websites.

A detailed assessment was made of the heritage value of each meeting house identifying its heritage significance and why it should be treasured and appreciated. This heritage value might be national or local historical significance, archaeological importance, architectural quality or interest, importance and completeness of furnishings. The methodology and approach used by Architectural History Practice followed Historic England practice. The abbreviated reports in this booklet contain, for each meeting house, an overall statement of its heritage significance and evidential, historical, aesthetic and communal value.

The surveys also covered the current use of each meeting house including sustainability and environmental impact, accessibility and community use. These aspects show how each meeting house demonstrates the Quaker ideals of simplicity, good environmental stewardship, community service, the needs of today's Society, and unencumbered access for users.

The meeting house surveys were undertaken by, first, local Quaker volunteers collating material and data, including plans, archives, or relevant local historical details. Then each meeting house was visited by Emma Neil, a specialist heritage consultant, who viewed the meeting house and was shown the locally gathered material.

This booklet has been published by Central England Quakers to provide an overview of the heritage significance of its meeting houses and, importantly, to demonstrate how local Quakers are improving the sustainability of their meeting houses, putting them to community use and improving their accessibility.

Editing the full heritage report for each meeting house has been undertaken by Chris Martin, clerk of the Central England Quakers trustees' property committee with assistance from Esther Boyd and James Bradbury. The Britain Yearly Meeting holds the copyright of the contents of this booklet that are not already in the public domain. The photographs, unless otherwise acknowledged, were taken by Architectural History Practice.

Central England Quakers would like to thank Historic England who provided the greater part of the funding for the national survey as part of its Taking Stock programme. Thanks are also due to the local Quaker volunteers who gathered together the heritage material about their meeting houses and met with Emma Neil from the Architectural History Practice when she visited each meeting house.

# Summary

CENTRAL ENGLAND QUAKERS have the care of the fifteen meeting house buildings in this booklet. Three meeting houses are listed buildings, one at Grade II\* (Warwick), the other two at Grade II (Bournville and Stourbridge). Two meeting houses, Warwick and Stourbridge, date to early Quakerism. Edgbaston and Hall Green, which was purchased in 1927 and converted to a meeting house, date from the late nineteenth century and are good examples of late Victorian architecture.

There are a number of twentieth century meeting houses designed by notable architects including William Alexander Harvey (Bournville), Hubert Lidbetter (Bull Street and Sutton Coldfield) and Frederick W Gregory who experimented with different roof forms (Hartshill and Cotteridge). Many of the Meeting Houses in Birmingham have strong connections with the Cadbury family, most notably the Bournville Meeting House.

There are attached burial grounds at Coventry, Stourbridge and Warwick.

## Meeting House Summaries

---

### Barnt Green and Redditch Meeting House

The meeting house was built in 1969 and replaced an early meeting house known as the 'tin tabernacle' built in 1904. The building was designed by Edward Jolley Associates and is a good example of the use of a timber hyperbolic paraboloid roof. Internally, this roof structure creates interesting concave and convex surfaces. The building is considered a possible candidate for listing and at the very least merit inclusion on a local list. The building is in good condition and well used by local community groups for 24 hours each week.

### Bournville Meeting House

Located in George Cadbury's model village the meeting house was built in 1905 to the designs of William Alexander Harvey. It was extended a number of times in the late twentieth century. The meeting house is large and unlike most Quaker meeting houses it is not a building of simplicity. A gift of an organ in 1915 by George and Elizabeth Cadbury led to the meeting house sometimes being referred to as a 'Quaker Cathedral'. It is listed Grade II and makes a positive contribution to the conservation area. It is in good condition and widely used for community lettings, for up to 70 hours each week. There is no attached burial ground but there is a columbarium containing a number of cinerary urns.

### Bull Street Meeting House

The site at Bull Street was acquired in 1703 and the present meeting house is the third meeting house on the site. It was built in 1931-33 by the eminent Quaker architect Hubert Lidbetter and has since been extended on two occasions, the latter for the Priory Rooms. Today, the meeting house sits within a courtyard enveloped by tall buildings. The Priory Rooms Meeting and Conference Centre is in good condition and well used by community and commercial lettings. An attached burial ground was located on the site until the Priory Rooms were built and the burial remains were re-interred at Lodge Hill Cemetery.

### Cotteridge Meeting House

A modernist building built to the designs of Frederick W Gregory it has a striking butterfly roof. The meeting house is set back from the road and cannot be viewed from the street; it is accessed via an opening between buildings on Watford Road. >

# Summary

---

A number of steps have been taken at this meeting house to improve sustainability and experience gained is shared with other local meetings. Early sustainability work helped inform the Sustainability Toolkit developed by national Quakers. The building may merit inclusion on a local list. The building is in a good condition and in community use for 70 hours each week.

## **Coventry Meeting House**

The site of the present meeting house was first acquired by Quakers in 1668 when first used a burial ground. The Coventry Meeting re-located to two other purpose-built meeting houses before returning to the present day meeting house built in 1953 by Alfred Gardner. The meeting house makes a neutral contribution to the character of the conservation area. The present meeting house occupies part of the former burial ground and is now no longer used for burials. A small number of headstones laid flat remain in situ. The building is in good condition and well used by a number of community groups each week.

## **Edgbaston Meeting House**

The purpose-built meeting house was built 1892 by William Henman, the architect responsible for Birmingham's General Hospital. The meeting house was built on land which formed part of the Calthorpe Estate. It is an attractive late Victorian building which retains much of its original elegant exterior detail. The site is a valuable part of the local scene and makes a positive contribution to the conservation area. The building located directly opposite the meeting house was the former home of George Cadbury. The locally listed building is considered a possible candidate for listing. The building is in good condition and available for lettings by community groups.

## **Hall Green Meeting House**

The building was acquired by the Friends in 1927 and converted for Quaker use. The building was originally a Reading Room built in 1883 at the expense of the Severne family. It is an attractive late Victorian building which retains much of its elegant exterior detail and was extended in 1930. The interior of the meeting room includes significant features such as the stained glass leaded windows and exposed roof. The building is locally listed and makes a positive contribution to the townscape. It is in good condition and available for lettings by community groups.

## **Hartshill Meeting House**

The modern design of the meeting house built in 1972 by Frederick Gregory creates an exterior which is bold and striking and a light and spacious interior. It was built on the site of an earlier Quaker school and master's house dating from the mid eighteenth century. The building is not listed but may merit inclusion on the local authority's local list. The meeting house is in good condition and available for lettings by community groups.

## **Kings Heath Meeting House**

The meeting house was built in 1983 to the designs to S.T. Walker & Partners and extended in 1988. The interior of the building contains a number of furnishings including an oak table by Lewis Willis and chairs with Richard Cadbury's initials from the Friends Institute, Moseley Road. The building is in good condition and in community use for 50 hours each week.

## Northfield Meeting House

The meeting house was built in 1930 by Quaker architect Ernest J Hickman on a site donated to the Friends by George Cadbury. It is designed in a new-Georgian style following the trend set by Hubert Lidbetter for inter-war meeting house designs. The building is not listed but may merit inclusion on a local list. The meeting house is in good condition and well used by community groups and the Northfield Quaker Pre School in the week.

## Redditch Meeting House

This purpose built meeting house was designed by Quaker architect Selby Clewer and opened in 1974. The building was built at a time when Redditch was expanding as a result of the New Town designation made in 1964 and is surrounded by housing built by the Redditch Friends Housing Association. The meeting house comprises a striking oval structure with a copper-covered roof which provides a focal point in the area. The building would merit inclusion on a local list. The building ceased use as a place for Quaker worship in 2007 and the building was leased to Worcestershire County Council until 2015. Today it is in use by a local dance group.

## Selly Oak Meeting House

The meeting house was built in 1926 and is an example of a meeting house designed in the domestic tradition by the Bournville Village Trust architects. The meeting house was a gift from Edward Cadbury, the eldest son of George Cadbury. It was further extended in 1966 and 2002. The meeting would merit inclusion on a local list. The meeting house is in good condition and available for community lettings.

## Stourbridge Meeting House

This is the earliest meeting house within the Area Meeting being built in 1689 on land given by Quaker Friend Ambrose Crowley. The meeting house has been subsequently extended in 1960 and 1994. The building is Grade II listed and is in keeping with Quaker principles. The meeting house is a plain, but attractive building, and retains a good set of fitted oak benches, panelling and ironmongery to the windows and doors. It is also used by local community groups and is open to the public, in conjunction with Heritage Open Days each year in September. Both the meeting house and attached burial ground are in good condition.

## Sutton Coldfield Meeting House

The meeting house was built in 1939 and is typical of the small, plain, domestic-style meeting houses built by Hubert Lidbetter. Whilst not considered to be a candidate for listing due to the replacement of windows in uPVC, the building could be a suitable candidate for a local list. The meeting house is in good condition and in community use for 23 hours each week.

## Warwick Meeting House

This meeting house was purpose-built in 1695, to replace an earlier seventeenth century building damaged by fire on the same site. The interior of the meeting house was altered in the eighteenth century and retains its gallery and fireplace of this date. There was a period of closure of the meeting house from 1909 until 1949 as a result of declining membership numbers. The meeting house is Grade II\* listed and has a central position within Warwick along High Street, located within the historic core of Warwick Conservation Area. The meeting house and attached burial ground are in good condition and available for community lettings.

# Timeline

## Important events

**1624** Birth of George Fox founder of Quakerism

**1652** George Fox's vision on Pendle Hill began the Quaker movement and a period of confrontations with the established Church

**1662** 'Quaker Acts' forbid Quakers to meet in England

**1689** Toleration Act permits Quaker meetings and Quakers become accepted but not widely understood

**1700s** Quakers become recognised for their integrity in social and business matters going into manufacturing and commerce as they were not allowed to join the professions

During the **1800s** Quaker businesses continued to flourish and increased their work in social justice and equality including promoting equal rights, campaigning against the slave trade and prison reform.

In **1882** George and Richard Cadbury relocate their chocolate business to Bournville. Becomes highly successful and wealth generated used for the betterment of society in accordance with their Quaker principles.

1600

1700

1800

1900

2000

## Date of settlement<sup>1</sup> of first meetings

**1668 Coventry** Land purchased for burial ground with a barn becoming a place of worship

**1671 Warwick** Land purchased for burial ground with a dwelling that was used as a meeting house

**1689 Stourbridge** Friends build a meeting house following Toleration Act of 1689

**1689 Bull Street** House in Colmore's Lane used by Friends registered for worship

**1704 Hartshill** Barn given by Nathaniel Newton used as meeting house

**1882 Bournville** Friends first met at small dining room near Mosley's Lodge at Stirchley railway station

**1892 Northfield** 'Friends Meeting House' meeting house built with educational, leisure and worship facilities

**1892 Edgbaston** Friends build meeting house on Calthorpe Estate site

**1894 Selly Oak** Institute built for evening meeting, adult education classes and venue for Quaker worship

**1898 Kings Heath** Friends' Institute on Moseley Road built for worship also an adult school, Sunday school and for social work

**1901 Cotteridge** Following Manchester conference, Mission Hall built for local liberal Quakers

**1904 Barnt Green** 'Tin tabernacle' constructed and used for Mission work and by Friends travelling to Longbridge

**1927 Hall Green** Friends acquired a Reading Room for use as a meeting house

**1939 Sutton Coldfield** Local Friends built own meeting house

**1974 Redditch** Meeting house and flats built by Friends concerned with housing shortages for single persons and single parents

This timeline only includes meeting houses currently under the care of Central England Quakers. Other meetings were founded, especially in the 17th and late 19th centuries but the meeting house buildings no longer exist or are used for other purposes. Butler (1999) contains a comprehensive history of the meeting houses past and present.

<sup>1</sup>The 'date of settlement' is when friends first worshipped in their own meeting house rather than their homes or other premises. In some cases the first meeting house has been replaced by a later building.

# Quaker History



**GEORGE FOX** (1624-1691) was born and grew up in Fenny Drayton in Leicestershire in the turbulent times leading up to the Civil War. He left home in 1643 to seek ‘the truth’, through listening to preachers and others, and developing his own ideas.

He knew the Bible intimately, and it was central to his life, but he looked for other sources of inspiration too. He came to believe that everyone, men and women

alike, could encounter God themselves, through Jesus, so that priests were not needed. He began talking to everyone he met about his ideas.

The beginning of the Society of Friends (Quakers) is usually dated from 1652 when George Fox had a vision on Pendle Hill in Lancashire of a “great people to be gathered” and shortly afterwards preached to large crowds on Firbank Fell, near Sedbergh, in Cumbria.



**JOSEPH STURGE** (1793-1859) was a prominent Birmingham Quaker. Carved into the stone around the statue are the words ‘Peace’ Temperance’ and ‘Charity’.

A further inscription reads: ‘He laboured to bring freedom to the negro slave, the vote to the British workman, and the promise of peace to a war worn world’.



**GEORGE CADBURY** (1839-1922) and his brother Richard took over the family cocoa business in 1861 and began using a Dutch method for extracting the unpalatable fat from cocoa, making it a much more appealing drink. The brothers launched their “Absolutely Pure Therefore Best” cocoa essence product that then underlay the prosperity of the business.

George Cadbury’s Quaker values permeated his life. He channelled his energies into creating a successful business that produced a top quality product and treated the workforce well. He believed passionately in equality.

In 1897 he and Richard decided to relocate their factory away from the city centre to Bournville where they created a model village providing their employees with good housing, schools and leisure facilities.

George was very interested in the adult school movement. As a young man he had taught in an adult school in Birmingham and continued to do so up to the age of seventy two. He liked to cycle to the school on a Sunday morning at about 6.00 am for a Bible class. He taught hundreds of people to read and write and gained a great insight into the conditions of the working classes.

# Barnt Green



**Friends Meeting House**  
6 Sandhills Road  
Barnt Green  
Birmingham  
B45 8NR

○ SP 00784 73572

**The building has medium heritage significance as a meeting house purpose-built in 1969, with an innovative approach to the design of the roof structure, a timber hyperbolic paraboloid roof. This technique was pioneered in Britain and was briefly popular during the mid-twentieth century.**

## Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure of relatively recent date, on the site of a former meeting house dating from the twentieth century. It is of low evidential value.

## Historical value

---

The meeting house has low historical significance, however Barnt Green Meeting provides a local context for the evolution of Quakers in the area from the beginning of the twentieth century.

## Historical background

THE FOUNDING OF both a local meeting and a meeting house in Barnt Green was a result of work by a local Quaker, John Gibbons. In the late nineteenth century. John Gibbons and his family lived in Barnt Green and travelled to Longbridge, the nearest place for Quaker worship every Sunday. John Gibbons purchased a plot of land on Sandhills Road, in the centre of Barnt Green Village in the early twentieth century. Butler (1999) notes that Mission work is recorded to have been carried out in Barnt Green in 1904 under the care of Warwickshire North Monthly Meeting. Gibbons constructed a building which was better known as the 'tin tabernacle' in 1904. It was built to accommodate 110 people and cost £150.

This became the home for local Quakers for the next

## Aesthetic value

---

The meeting house has high significance for aesthetic values due to the quality of the timber hyperbolic paraboloid roof which demonstrates the advancing construction technologies being developed by architects in the post-war years. Internally, the roof design creates an interesting ceiling of both concave and convex curves, lit by clerestory windows.

## Communal value

---

The meeting house was built for Quaker use. However, it is also a community resource. The building is used by a number of local groups and has high communal value.

sixty five years until it was replaced by the present building in 1969. The meeting house was built to the designs of Edward Jolley Associates and cost £14,000. For many years the building was used as both a village hall and a place for worship.

In 2004, a ramp was installed to the main entrance of the meeting house and a small extension was built to the west side of the south block to accommodate a fully accessible entrance.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house is formed of two components; a higher single-storey block for the meeting room >

# Barnt Green

---

to the north, with a hyperbolic paraboloid roof, and a single-storey flat-roofed element containing ancillary rooms and lobby to the south. The two square elements are slightly off-set with a connecting lobby. The building is built in red / brown brick laid in stretcher bond and the roofs are covered in felt. The east elevation forms the principal frontage, an entrance with timber canopy is located to the northern end of the single-storey southern block. To the north, the block used as the meeting room is expressed with wedges of clerestory lighting immediately below the eaves of the hyperbolic paraboloid roof, with a central 4-light window with uPVC panelling to each north, east and west elevation. To the south the ancillary block has two sets of 3-light clerestory windows with plain timber panels below. The south elevation of the south block has a 5-light window with double doorway and a door opening to the east of this elevation. The west elevation has a set of clerestory lighting and a small brick projection to accommodate the 2004 WC extension.

The main meeting room, smaller meeting room and ancillary facilities are accessed via a pleasant well-lit lobby area. The lobby is plastered, walls painted white, with hardwood flooring. The interior of the main meeting room is square in shape and well lit. The striking feature is the ceiling lined with tongue and groove panelling; the parabolic roof structure creates internal concave and convex surfaces, supported by a steel frame. The walls are covered in narrow tongue and groove panelling. The hardwood flooring is laid in a herringbone pattern. There are no fitted furnishings.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

Barnt Green is a village located in the Bromsgrove District of Worcestershire, twelve miles south from Birmingham city centre. The meeting house is located in Sandhills Road, a gentle curved road with a number of Edwardian properties expressing Arts and Crafts detail and the grade II listed Anglican Church, St Andrews; this was built in 1909-14 to the designs of A. S. Dixon. The defining characteristic of the dwellings are gables facing the road. The road also includes

infill development dating from the mid-twentieth century, including the meeting house. To the south of the road is Hewell Road, a linear shopping street.

The meeting house is set back from the road, bounded by a wooden fence and the grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which add to the mature landscaped character of the area. A modest car park is located to the north, with two bungalows to the south (resident warden and one privately let).

## Listed status

Not listed. The use of hyperbolic paraboloid roofs in places of worship includes the grade II\* listed St John the Baptist Parish Church in Lincoln, constructed in concrete. An example of a timber hyperbolic paraboloid roof is the former Silhouette Factory in Shropshire, built in 1961 and listed grade II. The list description for this now demolished factory notes that Britain pioneered the use of timber for hyperbolic paraboloid construction. The meeting house has a smaller and slightly later version of this roof form; it does not retain original fenestration but the interior is relatively intact. It is considered that the meeting house would merit inclusion on a local list.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. A former meeting house was located on this site previously, however, as the site of an early twentieth century meeting house it is likely to be of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** improved insulation, installation of low energy light bulbs and new boiler fitted.



Clerestory windows below the hyperbolic paraboloid roof



Original 'tin tabernacle' (1904) to the right (Barnt Green Archive)

- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting house uses the local authority recycling scheme.
- **Building maintenance and refurbishment:** under ongoing review.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** the meeting house is in close proximity to the railway station.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken, but access improvement works have been carried out. In 2004, a ramp was installed to improve access into the meeting house and a WC with an alarm system installed suitable for disabled persons. A quinquennial inspection carried out in 2015 by Barnsley Bate (chartered building surveyors) identified the WC as being non-compliant with the Equality Act 2010 and recommended that alterations are considered in the future. The nosings on the external stairs into the meeting house are in a contrasting colour (white) to assist partially-sighted people. An induction loop for the hard of hearing is installed in the main meeting room.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately three hours and in community use for 36 hours each week. There is a lettings policy. The building may not be hired for commercial use and only Quaker groups have free use of space (meetings for worship, weddings or funerals). There are two meeting rooms that can be hired separately or in combination which include full use of the kitchen facilities. A number of different groups currently use the meeting house including yoga, dance and painting groups. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to its convenient location, quiet ambience and on-site car parking.

## Information sources

Booth, L.G., *The design and construction of timber hyperbolic paraboloid shell roofs in Britain: 1957-1975*, Construction History, Volume 13, pp.67-90, 1997.

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. 1, pp.83-87.

The Village, *Are we Christian?*, pp.34-35, January 2015.

Michael Andrews, *Local Meeting Survey*, September 2015.

# Bournville



## **Friends Meeting House**

65 Linden Road  
Birmingham  
B30 1JT

○ 04456 81405

**The meeting house has high heritage value as a purpose-built early twentieth century building, built at the expense of George Cadbury as part of the Bournville model village and designed by locally important architect William Alexander Harvey.**

## Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure of 1905, and the site is of low evidential value. The Birmingham Historic Environment Record has not identified the site for any archaeological interest.

## Historical value

---

The meeting house is located within George Cadbury's model village at Bournville, laid out from 1895 and designed by William Alexander Harvey. The building has high historic significance as part of the overall development of Bournville and has strong associations with the Cadbury family.

## Historical background

The history of the Bournville Meeting begins at Bournville Works in Stirchley. From 1882, a Meeting known as the Bournville Factory Meeting met for ten years in what was described as a small dining room near Mosley's Lodge at Stirchley railway station. The foundation of the meeting was related to the relocation of Cadbury's cocoa and chocolate works from Bridge Street in the centre of Birmingham to their new site to the south of the city, re-named Bournville in 1879. By 1892 Friends worshipped at the Stirchley Institute, still known as the Bournville Meeting until a purpose built meeting house was built in 1913.

Following the opening of the new Bournville factory in 1879, George Cadbury, a Quaker, built a small

## Aesthetic value

---

The meeting house is large and unlike most Quaker meeting houses it is not a building of simplicity. The front elevation of the Arts and Crafts style meeting house has high aesthetic value, while other parts of the building are of low aesthetic value, notably the later extensions. The association with the architect William Alexander Harvey adds to the aesthetic value; Harvey was influenced by architects such as Baillie Scott and Voysey. Internally, the wagon roof and organ gallery contribute to the building's high aesthetic value.

## Communal value

---

The building was originally built for Quaker use and the meeting house is a popular venue for local community groups. Its association with the Cadbury family also links it to Bournville model village and other buildings paid for by the family, which collectively form part of the local identity. The meeting house has high communal value.

number of dwellings for key workers close to the factory. In 1893, Cadbury purchased a further 120 acres to create a large garden suburb and provide his workers with quality homes. By 1900, 313 houses had been built and Cadbury founded the Bournville Village Trust. The Trust provided buildings for the community in Bournville Village including shops, Ruskin Hall, an Anglican Parish Church and the Friends Meeting House.

The meeting house was built to the designs of William Alexander Harvey of Birmingham, the consulting architect for the Bournville Village Trust and opened in 1905. The completed building was larger than the original designs as Harvey added a fourth bay during the early construction phase. Butler (1999) >

# Bournville

---

describes that the community use of the meeting house led to features that would not normally be seen in Quaker meeting houses, notably the gift of an organ in 1915 by George and Elizabeth Cadbury; following this the meeting house was referred to as a 'Quaker Cathedral'.

The meeting house was extended and altered during the twentieth century, including an extension in 1923 for a small hall with adjoining kitchen and store room, and buttresses were built on the east side. In 1924, a niche was made for a bust of George Cadbury with a columbarium for his ashes (he died in 1922). Internal changes to the meeting room in 1935 included the removal of the original rostrum; a platform enclosed with a balustrade was replaced with a three-step platform, and the tongue and groove panelling within the arch to the south wall was removed. In 1960 an extension was made for a children's room with smaller library and cloakrooms by Selby Clewer the chief architect at the Bournville Village Trust. Finally in 1988, the library was opened to make a lobby area, the main hall was re-roofed, internal front doors were added, and ancillary facilities were reconfigured by Morton and Hayhow Architects.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The present meeting house was built in five phases. The original meeting house was built to designs by William Alexander Harvey and opened in 1905. The building was roughly T-plan and built of red brick laid in Flemish bond, with stone dressings and the roof covered in clay tiles. The principal entrance to the south has a tall, gabled front with splayed wings and an off-centre tower. The central arched doorway has five plain orders, flanked either side by small 2-light mullioned windows; above is a tall 2-light mullioned and transomed window and a sundial to the gable apex.

To the east and west are low wings containing subsidiary rooms, which project diagonally. On the gable-end of the east wing is an arched alcove containing a columbarium with a bust of George Cadbury, created in 1924. In the angle of the west

wing and the entrance is an octagonal staircase turret with high pointed roof and 1-light leaded windows. The east and west elevations of the meeting room have 3-light and 4-light segmental-headed timber windows. On the south-west corner of the main range is a tall chimney stack. Both roof pitches have 2-light and 3-light flat-roofed or hipped dormer windows.

The 1923 addition to the north gable-end forms an additional meeting room, with kitchen, store and toilets. The smaller meeting room and kitchen addition are each set-back from and built in a sympathetic style to the original meeting house.

The 1960 addition is to the north end of the west elevation, connected by a shallow flat-roofed link. This 3-bay range is aligned east to west and now forms a secondary entrance. It is built of red brick laid in stretcher bond.

The final addition built in 1988 is on the north side of the 1960s extension and wraps around the north-east corner of the 1923 extension, forming an irregular polygonal footprint. The builder was Trevor Lacy. It is built in red brick with flat roofs covered in felt.

Internally, the meeting room is accessed through the main west entrance which leads into a small lobby area with red octagonal tiled floor, the walls are exposed buff brick with toilet facilities to the west along with stairs leading to the gallery and organ loft. To the east is a small kitchen area and additional toilet facilities. The meeting room is large, with a high space which is well lit. It has an arch-braced wagon roof, with the trusses rising from the floor, with four roof lights to each side. The flooring is parquet and the walls have vertical tongue and groove panelling to dado height with plain plaster above.

The north end of the meeting room has a three-step platform with arched panel in the north wall with the inscription: "GOD IS A SPIRIT AND THEY THAT WORSHIP HIM MUST WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH". To the south is the gallery with a clock face and a pipe organ by Harrison and Harrison of Durham (included on the National Pipe Organ Register), a gift from George Cadbury and his wife >



Interior showing organ donated by George and Elizabeth Cadbury

---



View from north

---

# Bournville

---

in commemoration of their silver wedding, opened on 21st November 1915.

At the north end of the meeting room a doorway towards the west end leads into the additional meeting room of 1923. The doorway to the far north of the west wall leads into a lobby area with access to the west entrance, front room (children's room), library, kitchen, cloak room and toilet facilities.

## Attached burial ground

There is no attached burial ground to the meeting house. However, the 1924 columbarium contains a number of cinerary urns.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

Bournville is located 5.5 miles south west of Birmingham city centre. The area was designated a conservation area in 1971, and forms part of the model village George Cadbury created in the early twentieth century. The meeting house is located on Linden Road, a wide tree lined street which is characterised by a number of cottages built in the Arts and Crafts style, mainly semi-detached and short terraces, each with variations in style. To the south of the meeting house is Bournville Green, with the Grade II listed Rest House, a Grade II listed shopping parade with first floor jetties and timber-framed detailing and the church of St Francis of Assisi also Grade II listed. Opposite the meeting house to the west is the Grade II listed Bournville School of Arts and Crafts, and Bournville Junior School.

The meeting house is set back from the road with a Grade II listed boundary wall which includes timber seating to the south. Low hedges surround the property with modern fencing to the rear. The building has a prominent position and views can be seen of the building from various points. The adjacent Bournville Green enhances the suburban character of the area. The car parking facilities are located to the west of the meeting house.

A detached burial ground is located at Lodge Hill Cemetery (O SP 02849 82442) which has an area specifically for Quaker burials.

## Listed status

The building is properly listed at Grade II. The list entry makes no mention of the late twentieth century additions, and the internal description of the building is limited.

The boundary wall is also properly listed at Grade II.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site, it is therefore likely to be of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** water is metered, insulation of room spaces in main hall, front cloakrooms, rear hall and front room, energy efficient light bulbs in small hall, emergency lighting upgraded to current recommended specifications, draught proofing to front doors and side door replaced by wider double glazed doors.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** collection of compost from users and two compost bins located to the rear of the building and container added for waste paper and plastic (taken home by a Friend, no direct collection by local authority).
- **Building maintenance & refurbishment:** annual inspection and repair of stonework by a qualified heritage stonemason. Renewal of stone path and around the side of the building near the George Cadbury bust, using reclaimed stone.

- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats. Woodcraft Folk group (hirer) have added winter accommodation for insects.
- **Transport:** addition of bicycle stands planned.

### Access

A Disability Access Audit was undertaken during the 1990s. Recommended changes implemented included adaptations to toilets (grab rails and doors widened), opening of new enlarged side doors and the front path elevated to make a slope to allow for the removal of steps. The meeting house is on one level with no steps, a ramp gives access to the main front doors and the front lobby contains fully accessible toilet facilities. The large and small meeting rooms have a loop system but no facilities for the partially-sighted. The quinquennial survey suggests a ramp to the rear fire exit route and a marked parking space for those with disabilities should be provided adjacent to the front of the premises if possible.

### Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately four hours a week, with additional hours relating to occasional committee meetings and social events every two to three months. The building is in use for up to 70 hours each week, potentially available for 243 hours (three rooms available six and a half days a week between the hours of 9am and 10pm). The small meeting room can accommodate 60 people, the front room 30 people and the large meeting room 200 people. Each room is described as being well lit and heated, power points are available, along with Gopack tables and stacking chairs. There is a letting policy; no young children's parties after experiencing damage to the building previously. All community groups are considered except commercial (selling) and extreme political groups; no bookings of an activity already present, for example one yoga

teacher only; needs of adjacent lettings must be considered; when yoga classes are taking place other bookings not accepted if they produce high levels of noise or music. If bookings are for public entertainment then Public Entertainments Licence requirements apply, with a limit of 150 people in the audience. The meeting rooms can be used free for Quaker activity, public meetings of local interest, and charities supported by the local meeting. Other charities pay a reduced letting fee. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to its peaceful atmosphere and cleanliness of the building.

### Information sources

Birmingham City Council, *Bournville Village Conservation Area Designation Report*, 1974.

David M. Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp. 623-624.

Historic England, *English Garden Cities: An Introduction*, 2010.

Religious History: Places of worship, in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 7, the City of Birmingham* ed. W.B. Stephens (London, 1964), pp. 434-482.4

» [british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol7/pp434-482](http://british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol7/pp434-482)

*The Cadbury Story*, [cadbury.co.uk/the-story](http://cadbury.co.uk/the-story)

Anne Giles and Howard Saunders, *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

# Bull Street



**Friends Meeting House**  
40 Bull Street  
Birmingham  
B4 6AF

○ SP 07175 87159

**The meeting house designed by the eminent Quaker architect Hubert Lidbetter in 1931-33 in a cubic neo-Georgian architectural style. The site has been in Quaker ownership since 1703, with two former meeting houses previously on this site. The building has high significance for communal and historical value and for the architectural significance of the main meeting room, although the buildings external aesthetic value has been reduced by major changes.**

## Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure which dates from the early 1930s, built on the site of a former Quaker burial ground and two previous meeting houses. It is of high evidential value.

## Historical value

---

The building has medium historical significance. As an important city meeting house designed by Hubert Lidbetter, it has strong associative value with the architect and his other Quaker work. The site itself has a high historic value for its association with Birmingham Quakers since 1703, and provides the local context of the Birmingham Meeting.

## Historical background

QUAKERISM IN BIRMINGHAM dates back to the seventeenth century when Friends are recorded to have been meeting at the houses of William Reynolds in 1659 and of William Baylis in 1660. In 1681, Joseph Hopkins conveyed a house and yard (used as a burial ground) in a lane called Colmore's Lane to the Friends and this was registered as a place of worship in 1689. The building was converted into a dwelling in 1793 and subsequently demolished in 1726 but the burial ground remained in use until 1821.

Land for a new meeting house in 1703 was purchased in Bull Street from John Pemberton at a cost of £25, further plots of land were purchased in 1778, 1803 and in 1853 to accommodate expansion. The meeting house was built in 1703 and the site included space

## Aesthetic value

---

The 1930s building has high aesthetic value as a larger meeting house designed by Lidbetter and influenced by his design for Friends House in London (1925-27), although it has been altered. Its setting is dominated by adjacent buildings and it makes a fairly neutral contribution to the character of the townscape. Internally, the main meeting room retains fittings and furnishings and this element of the building has high aesthetic value.

## Communal value

---

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for the Quakers which has been in use since it opened in 1933. The building provides a local community focus and its facilities used by a number of local groups and commercially.

for a new burial ground. A number of repairs and alterations took place over the years and by 1806 proposals had been drawn up by George Jones for a new meeting house or conversion of the existing building into three shops. Neither of the two proposals took place and instead the existing building was enlarged in 1824 by the architect Edward Jones. By 1857, the meeting house had been demolished and a new meeting house built to the designs of Thomas Plevin on the same site. Bull Street in Birmingham, by this time, had become a main shopping district; Benjamin Cadbury had a drapers at 92 Bull Street and his brother John Cadbury had a neighbouring property selling cocoa and chocolate. Shortly before the new meeting house was built, David Lewis opened a department store on the corner of >

# Bull Street

---

Corporation Street and Bull Street in 1855. In 1859, further land was purchased on Upper Priory for the construction of a girl's Sunday School, and the Priory Rooms were built in 1861. By 1882, a building to accommodate the Friends Society library, the Monthly Meeting office housing the Bevan-Nash library and a caretaker's house had been built. These buildings were demolished in the early twentieth century as part of road works by the Birmingham Corporation.

The neighbouring Lewis's Department Store required more space in 1930 and by agreement with the Birmingham Corporation and the Friends the land boundaries were altered. In 1931 the 1850s meeting house was demolished and a new meeting house was built in 1931-33. It was originally built as a two-storey building, the principal elevation to the south west was of 5-bays, with 12-pane sash windows at first floor and four 8-pane windows at ground floor with an open porch. During the late twentieth century the building was extended in a sympathetic style in order to create a third floor to accommodate a warden's flat.

In 1963-4, Doctor Johnson House designed by Clifford Tee and Gale was built to provide space for halls, offices and lettable rooms. A covered passage linked the building with the meeting house. By the 1990s Doctor Johnson House was in need of repairs and major refurbishment. A decision was made to demolish the building and part of the site was let for the building of One Colmore Square. The architects Peter Hing and Jones were appointed and they put forward proposals for an atrium, new courtyard, and basement extension. The plans were approved by the City Council and the new Priory Rooms were built in 2002. The burial ground was excavated and burials re-interred to Lodge Hill Cemetery.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The present meeting house was built to the designs of Hubert Lidbetter and opened in 1933, extended in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Rectangular in plan the three-storey 5-bay building is designed in a cubic neo-Georgian architectural style. It is faced with multi-coloured sand-faced bricks

laid in Flemish bond, with artificial stone plinth and dressings. The original fenestration on the principal entrance to the south west was replaced in the late twentieth century when a roof-top extension was added. The ground has three 2-light and one 3-light windows all with artificial stone lintels, the first floor has five uPVC sash windows and the added second floor has five top-hung casement windows. The entrance to the west bay of the elevation is via double timber doors introduced in the late twentieth century. The first two storeys are articulated with recessed panels separated by flat pilasters carrying a plain deep fascia previously topped with a plain parapet. The south east and north east elevations are obscured by the neighbouring high rise buildings. The new glazed Priory Rooms adjoin the north-west elevation.

## Attached burial ground

The site formerly contained a burial ground. Gravestones remain to the north west of the meeting house, in front of the Priory Rooms, including those for Charles and Mary Lloyd, Mary Capper, Lucy Ann Cadbury and Emma Cadbury. The burial remains were re-interred in the Quaker burial area at Lodge Hill Cemetery during work to construct the Priory Rooms in 2001.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is located in a central position in Birmingham's city centre. The building is set back from the road, and access is provided via an opening off Bull Street. The meeting house sits within a courtyard enveloped by tall buildings. To the south west is an area of car parking and to the north-west is an area of landscaping surrounding the Priory Rooms. The general area is part of a city centre commercial district with a series of shops and offices lined along Bull Street.

## Listed status

Not listed. The building has strong associations with the renowned Quaker architect Hubert Lidbetter, but

it is not considered to be a candidate for listing due to the extensions and alterations that have taken place in recent years.

### Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. However, the site has been in Quaker use since 1703, and two previous meeting houses have previously been located in the footprint. Depending on the level of ground disturbance, the site has medium archaeological potential.

### Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the building include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** insulation in the roof and walls, and lights and electrical equipment are switched off when not in use.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** Harvested rain water is used to flush the ground floor ladies toilets, all waste packaging and paper is recycled.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** power point for charging electric cars, bicycle stands and due the central location of the meeting house Friends and other users are encouraged to take public transport.

### Access

A Disability Access Audit was undertaken in July 2015, and all recommended minor changes have been undertaken. The meeting house has level access into and throughout the building, with the exception of the Sturge Room. The meeting house and Priory Rooms

span different floor levels, a lift has been installed and a chair lift can provide access to the office areas if required. A hearing loop has been installed and there are facilities for partially-sighted people with contrasting stair nosings and clear signage.

### Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately 12 hours. The meeting rooms in the meeting house and adjacent priory rooms are potentially available for 540 hours each week. The whole building complex is well used each week. Rooms can be hired for the day (9am-5pm) or as sessions (morning 9am-noon, afternoon 1.30pm-5pm, and evening 6.00pm-9.30pm). Evening room hire is available on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings.

All meeting rooms are also available for use on Saturdays. A 10% discount is available for charities and not-for-profit organisations. Equipment at an additional charge is available for use including laptops, whiteboard, data projector with screen and speaker phones. The Priory Rooms Meeting and Conference Centre operate a strict no smoking policy and the venue does not hold a license to supply or allow consumption of alcoholic beverages on the premises. If the event being held will involve playing recorded music a PRS licence is required. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to its peaceful atmosphere, cleanliness of the building and central location.

### Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp.615-622.

Gawne, E., *Buildings of Endearing Simplicity: the Friends Meeting Houses of Hubert Lidbetter, The Twentieth Century Church*, Twentieth Century Architecture 3, 1998, pp87-92.

*Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

# Cotteridge



**Friends Meeting House**

23a Watford Road  
Birmingham  
B30 1JB

○ SP 04744 79838

**The building has medium heritage significance as a meeting house purpose-built in 1964, in a modernist style with a striking butterfly roof by local architect Frederick W Gregory.**

### Evidential value

---

Cotteridge meeting house has an overall low level of significance for evidential value. The Birmingham Historic Environment Record has not identified the site for any archaeological interest.

### Historical value

---

Being of relatively recent date, the meeting house has low historical value. Together with the former Mission Hall on the site, it provides some local context into the recent history of Quakerism in Cotteridge.

### Historical background

IN THE LATE nineteenth century Cotteridge (which was known at the time as The Cotteridge) was predominately rural in character, located on the outskirts of Kings Norton. The villagers either worked in agriculture or at the Cadbury brother's factory in Bournville. Following a Quaker conference in Manchester in 1895 with a strong focus on liberal thinking, a small group of Friends from the Bournville Meeting, who were influenced by liberal ideas, were inspired to form a meeting which did not follow the evangelism of the Bournville or Selly Oak Meetings.

At the expense of George and Edward Cadbury a Mission Hall was built in 1901 in Cotteridge, for £2, 500. George Cadbury was a strong believer in ensuring the knowledge of Christianity was spread

### Aesthetic value

---

The meeting house has a functional modern design, typical of the post-war period; it has medium aesthetic value. The butterfly roof is an attractive feature and creates a dramatic space internally.

### Communal value

---

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for the Quakers which has been in use since it opened in 1964. The building has in recent years provided a local community focus and its facilities are used by many local and social groups with diverse interests.

among his employees. The hall was owned by West Birmingham Hall Trust which was set up by George Cadbury. In 1906, the Warwickshire North Monthly Meeting received a request from the Friends in Cotteridge, who were meeting at the Mission Hall, for their meeting to be recognised as a Preparative Meeting. In 1908, it is recorded that Cotteridge had a membership of seventy-one.

The Monthly Meeting took over the management of the hall from West Birmingham Hall Trust in July 1950. Six years later, Mr H M Grant of Grant Estates who was responsible for housing development in Cotteridge from the beginning of the twentieth century offered £12,000 to purchase the meeting house, but Friends declined the offer as it was >

# Cotteridge

---

insufficient to fund new premises or the building of a new meeting house. Instead, Friends repaired the frontage, created a car park and undertook internal decoration.

However, there was growing concern relating to the condition and the cost of maintaining the meeting house by the late 1950s, leading to a decision to build a new purpose-built meeting house. A site on Middleton Hall Road was rejected before the meeting decided to build on the rear of their existing site. The land immediately under the old meeting house was leased and a block of shops with flats above was built over it. Friends received ground rent from this property until 2013 when they sold the freehold for £120,000. The proceeds were invested as an endowment fund for the meeting.

The architect Frederick W Gregory prepared proposals for a new meeting house on the existing site which required extra land, from adjacent properties (backs of gardens of 7, 9 and 11 Northfield Road). Gregory's proposals were accepted in March 1961 and the Friends Hall was sold at auction for £36,000 and later demolished. The contractor for the new meeting house was Grieves Ltd. During the construction period Friends temporarily met at a Social Club until the meeting house opened on 26th September 1964. The cost of the new meeting house was approximately £35,000.

The north range of the building was originally one long classroom that could be divided with movable partitions into three separate rooms, each with a door onto the corridor. In 2004 the space was redesigned to make a small classroom at the west end opening through double doors into one larger classroom. Throughout the building the original storage heaters have now been replaced with air source heat pumps.

## **The building and its principal fittings and fixtures**

The meeting house was built from designs by Frederick W Gregory in 1964. The building is built in brown and red brick laid in Flemish bond, with some

stone panels to the east elevation and the butterfly roof is covered in a single layer membrane (over 1,600mm insulation) with a solar photovoltaic array to the north range. The plan consists of two single-storey ranges; the meeting room and lobby are in the south block and ancillary spaces and classrooms are in a linear block to the north. The asymmetrical east elevation forms the principal frontage with the entrance slightly recessed in the centre, with double doors, natural stone panels and clerestory windows above.

The roof consists of mono-pitched roofs to each block forming a butterfly shaped-roof form overall. The east wall facing the carpark has high level trapezoidal windows which follow the slope of the roofs. There are five high level windows in the south wall of the meeting room. The building's tall north wall has a line of six high level windows. Of those along the north long corridor two are part of vertical 3-light windows and two are above glazed doors. Originally five sets of overlapping plate glass panels, each 2m by 2m, formed sliding doors opening onto the garden from the meeting room, the foyer and the three classrooms. The door in the foyer was framed by full height plate glass windows. Although admired by Pevsner, these were not energy efficient. By 2004 wooden framed full height double glazed windows had replaced the glass walls. There are now double doors from the middle classroom and a single door from the meeting room into the garden. The high level windows above these walls have now all been replaced with double glazed units set into the original wooden frames.

Internally, the main meeting room, ancillary facilities and classrooms are accessed via a spacious and light lobby area. The main feature of the meeting room is the V jointed parana pine ceiling, with spotlights, that gently rises at an angle to the south, the flooring is parquet and to the south the lobby is separated from the meeting room by removable partition panels. The room is well-lit from the combination of clerestory lighting to the south and large windows to the east and west. The walls have plain painted and plastered walls. There is fixed seating to the east, south and partially the west walls. Originally four night storage

heaters heated this room. The south and north walls contain alcoves to accommodate the heaters.

The ancillary facilities are located to the east end of the north range, with a corridor leading to two classrooms. Separating the classrooms and the corridor are fitted timber storage facilities. These include cupboards which originally housed storage heaters. The classrooms and lobby have parquet flooring and a sloping ceiling.

### The meeting house in its wider setting

Cotteridge is a suburban area located approximately five miles south of Birmingham city centre. The meeting house is located in Watford Road, the main commercial area of Cotteridge. The buildings date from the beginning of the twentieth century and consist of a series of Victorian red brick terraces with modern shop fronts below. In the 1960s a flat-roofed block with shops and flats was built on the site of the original meeting house to one side of the drive that leads back to the present meeting house. The meeting house is set back from the road behind blue metal gates and cannot be viewed from the street; it is accessed via an opening between buildings on Watford Road. To the east of the meeting house is a large car park with a warden's bungalow in the north-east corner. To the west of the meeting house is a garden developed in 2012 with a variety of insect-friendly planting. Ramps give wheelchair access to the garden from both the meeting room and the classrooms. A detached burial ground is located at Lodge Hill Cemetery, with a section dedicated to Quaker burials (O SP 02848 82446).

### Listed status

Not listed. The meeting house is not considered to be a future candidate for listing. Frederick Gregory was responsible for the design of a number of Quaker meeting houses in the West Midlands including Barnt Green and Wolverhampton. Each meeting house is characterised by its unique roof forms. The building may merit inclusion on Birmingham's local list.

### Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. The present meeting house is built on gardens to the west of a former Mission Hall built in 1901, it is therefore likely to be of low archaeological potential.

### Sustainability

Steps have been taken to improve sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting. Experience gained is shared with other meetings and churches. Early sustainability work helped inform the Sustainability Toolkit developed by national Quakers.

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** in 2005 air source heat pumps and wall insulation were installed and ceiling spotlights replaced with energy efficient bulbs. In 2013 LED lights were adopted and the energy supply switched to Good Energy. In 2005-2011 a Living Witness group addressed environmental issues. In 2009 solar photovoltaics were installed on the south-facing classroom roof. Between 2004 and 2011 Cotteridge Friends reduced the energy footprint of their all electric meeting house by approximately 90%, from c. 52,000kWh to 5, 610kWh.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** The meeting pays to have the use of recycling bins for paper, card, plastic bottles and tins. Kitchen waste is collected and composted.
- **Building maintenance & refurbishment:** between 2004 and 2013 the meeting double-glazed forty windows and installed secondary glazing on doors. In 2007 and 2009 all solid walls were internally dry-lined.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** in 2012 the meeting developed the garden to be insect-friendly with a wide variety of flowers, which provides wildlife habitats. >

# Cotteridge

---

- **Transport:** chains are located on the building to allow for secure bicycle parking, public transport links are clear in the meeting's publicity. Younger members of the meeting conducted a survey to establish how Friends travel to the meeting; car sharing is extensive.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken but there is level access into and throughout the meeting house. A ramp gives access to the main front doors and two ramps give access to the garden; white nosings on the exterior steps provide contrast for partially-sighted people. There is a fully accessible WC and hearing loop systems have been installed in both the meeting room and the large classroom. The most recent quinquennial inspection in 2015 acknowledged that the premises are accessible to the front of the property and circulation within the premises is also possible. The survey suggests the consideration of a ramp to the rear fire exit routes.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately six hours each week and community use for 70 hours each week including a daily pre-school group. The meeting house has the potential to be let for 144 hours each week (two rooms, twelve hour day for six days). There is a lettings policy. Lettings generally reflect the concerns of the Friends and should not conflict with their beliefs. Any group promoting gambling, the use of addictive substances or military activities will not be able to use the premises. Some groups involved in martial arts may only be accepted at the Preparative Meeting's discretion. Individual political parties will not be accepted. Regular meetings on Sundays will not be accepted, as Friends require access to the meeting house. Quaker groups can use the meeting house for free, including Central England Quakers groups. Cotteridge Friends may use the building for personal bookings; donations towards expenses would be expected. National Quaker groups will be asked to

pay the charity booking rate. The meeting house is popular for lettings due the cleanliness of the building, prices are competitive and the warden is very efficient in managing bookings.

## Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp.624-625.

Hopper, M., *Cotteridge Friends: A Quaker Meeting in Birmingham 1906-1985*, 1985.

Religious History: Places of worship, in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 7, the City of Birmingham* ed. W.B. Stephens (London, 1964), pp. 434-482.

» <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol7/pp434-482>

Harriet Martin, *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.



Cotteridge meeting in 2010 and their new solar panels

---



Rear view showing insect friendly garden, the 'glass walls' admired by Pevsner, now all double glazed, and (top right) external air source heat pump unit

---

# Coventry



**Friends Meeting House**  
Hill Street  
Coventry  
CV1 4AN

○ 32956 79176

**The meeting house has medium heritage significance for historic and architectural value. The overall site has high heritage value as a site in use as a Quaker burial ground from 1668 and the site of a barn first used by Coventry Meeting for worship.**

### Evidential value

---

This building was purpose-built in the 1950s on a site which was in use for Quaker burials since 1668. The first place of worship for Quakers was within a barn also located on this site. The general area of Hill Street is identified as an Archaeological Constraint Area, Hill Street Medieval Suburb. The site has high evidential value.

### Historical value

---

The site of the meeting house has high historical value, Hill Street was purchased for use as a Quaker burial ground and a barn on site was previously used for worship in 1668. The Coventry Meeting re-located to two other purpose-built meeting houses before returning to the location of the present day meeting house on the site of the old burial ground. The long history of the meeting provides a local context of the evolution of Quakers in the area.

### Historical background

IN 1668, A plot of land was purchased on Hill Street for use as a Quaker burial ground. An existing barn on site became a place of worship for the next twenty years, until land was purchased on Vicars Lane in 1689 for a purpose-built meeting house. The meeting house opened the same year and further land to the north of the meeting house was bought to allow for the expansion of the meeting house in 1742. This meeting house would remain in use until the late nineteenth century, by this date the building had undergone a number of alterations and repairs and a decision was made to replace the meeting house. It was also at a time when Friends were heavily involved in mission work, and a larger meeting house was needed to accommodate this work by Friends.

### Aesthetic value

---

This 1950s building has medium aesthetic value and makes a neutral contribution to the character of the conservation area.

### Communal value

---

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for the Quakers and in use since it opened in 1953. The building provides a local community focus and its facilities are used by a large number of local groups.

The third meeting house was built to the designs of Charles Smith and Son in 1897 on land purchased in Holyhead Road for £286. By the 1930s the meeting house, which contained a large meeting room, a number of class rooms and school rooms, became too large for the declining number of Friends. With the onset of the Second World War, Friends began to meet in smaller venues such as premises on Thomas Street, and in the YWCA building in Queens Road until a new meeting house was built on the Quaker burial ground first purchased for Quaker use in 1668 in Hill Street. The meeting house designed by Alfred Gardner was built in 1953 and cost approximately £6,000. The meeting house was originally constructed with a flat roof and following the need for a number of repairs this was replaced with the present day hipped roof in 1995. >

## **The building and its principal fittings and fixtures**

The two-storey rectangular planned building was designed with the meeting room at first floor above the ancillary facilities and smaller meeting room below. It is built in red / brown brick laid in stretcher bond, a hipped roof covered in concrete tiles, with uPVC rain water goods, and uPVC windows. The principal elevation is to the north east and comprises three 1-light vertical windows at first floor, and a central entrance flanked by two 2-light windows. The south east elevation has two 1-light windows at ground level and a 2-light window at first and the northwest elevation has three windows at ground level. The rear elevation to the south west consists of two glass panelled windows flanked by two doorways, a balcony above with a large area of glazing and a doorway onto the balcony.

Internally, the lobby area provides access to the smaller meeting room, ancillary facilities and the staircase to first floor. The area is carpeted, the ceiling is formed of insulated panels and the walls are a mixture of exposed brick and plastered and painted finishes. The lobby can be separated from the garden lobby by a sliding screen to the south west. The terrazzo staircase with timber handrail leads to the main meeting room on the first floor. The room is large, spacious and well lit. The walls to the south west and north east are of exposed brick, cork-facing to the northwest and the remaining wall is plastered and painted. The ceiling is lined with insulated boards, and the floor is covered in cork tiles.

## **Attached burial ground**

The burial ground is to the rear of the meeting house. An undated burial ground plan exists which includes outlines of the present meeting house and driveway. This site in Hill Street was first purchased by Friends in 1668 for use as a burial ground and by 1953 the present day meeting house was built on part of the burial ground. The site is no longer used for burials and the approximate date range the burials cover is unknown. Burial records have been transcribed from the burial certificate held by Warwickshire Monthly

Meeting and 58 Coventry-related burials were transcribed, the dates of the burials from the mid-nineteenth century. To the south west of the burial ground a small number of headstones laid flat remain in situ.

## **The meeting house in its wider setting**

The meeting house is located north west of Coventry city centre. Hill Street is located within Spon Street Conservation Area designated in 1969. The street itself contains the Grade II\* Bond's Hospital, founded by the will of Thomas Bond who died in the sixteenth century; it is a mainly close studded timber framed building. Located within the Bonds Hospital site are remains of the Coventry city walls. To the east of Hill Street is the Grade I listed Bablake School. In between Bond's Hospital and the meeting house is a modern complex of flats which form part of the sheltered accommodation associated with Bond's Hospital. Opposite the meeting house is an eighteenth century Grade II listed terrace known as early top-shops where workshops were located on the first floor along with a large area of open space earmarked for future redevelopment.

The boundary wall to the front of the meeting house is a mixture of red brick and sandstone, a driveway leads to the rear of the building, where a limited number of parking spaces is available. The grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which add to the mature landscaped character of the area.

## **Listed status**

Not listed. The meeting house is not considered to be a future candidate for listing.

## **Archaeological potential of the site**

The Coventry Historic Environment Record was consulted and identifies a burial ground; The Quakers purchased the land for a burial ground in 1668 and a barn on site was used as a meeting house until 1689.

The general area of Hill Street has been identified as an Archaeological Constraint Area, Hill Street Medieval Suburb. The site is likely to be of high archaeological potential.

### Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** solar photovoltaics installed on the south west roof, cavity wall insulation, double glazing, and draft proofing.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** General rubbish collected by local authority scheme and a voluntary recycling scheme is in place for paper and cardboard.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** car parking available.

### Access

A Disability Access Audit was undertaken in 2010. The front entrance is accessed by three steps with handrails on both sides or by a shallow ramp. The two rear doors are each fitted with shallow wooden ramps with non-slip surface. The ground floor is fully accessible with fully accessible toilet facilities available in the foyer. The library has one step (with white nosing) but also a ramp to provide access. Access to the first floor is available via an electric stair lift. The main meeting room is fitted with a hearing loop.

### Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately four hours per week and is well used

by community groups each week. The meeting house has three rooms available to let in three sessions, Monday to Sunday; morning, afternoon and evening. The main meeting room can accommodate 100 people, the committee room eight and the library 30 people. Kitchen facilities are included in the lettings for tea and light refreshments. There is a lettings policy. Quaker groups are able to use the meeting house for free. There are currently 24 groups which use the meeting house on a regular basis this includes meditation group, Sahaja yoga, soul singing, Coventry Rambling Group, and Cycling Touring Group. The meeting house is popular due to its ambience, good location, being well maintained, flexible to use and the competitive price.

### Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp.636-638.

William Waddilove, *Local Meeting Survey*, December 2015.

*A brief History of Quakerism in the Coventry area*  
 » <http://www.coventryquakers.org.uk/index.htm#history>

*Coventry Friends Meeting House*  
 » <http://www.1624country.org.uk/Coventry.htm>

# Edgbaston



**Friends Meeting House**

St James Road  
Edgbaston  
B15 1JP

○ 05803 85746

**The late Victorian meeting house in Edgbaston Conservation Area has high heritage value. The purpose built meeting house by William Henman retains most of its original architectural detail and has associations with the Calthorpe Estate.**

## Evidential value

This is a purpose-built structure of 1893, and the site is of low evidential value. The Birmingham Historic Environment Record has not identified the site for any archaeological interest.

## Historical value

The meeting house has high historical significance; it reflects the history of local Quakers from the late nineteenth century. The building has associations with the architect William Henman who also designed Birmingham General Hospital, connections with the Calthorpe Estate and wealthy Quaker families who lived in the area including the Sturge family and Richard Barrow Cadbury.

## Historical background

THE RICH HISTORY of Quakers in Birmingham begins in 1659 when meetings were held in Friends' homes. By 1681 Friends were meeting in a house in Colmore Lane, and by 1703 a purpose-built meeting house was in use in Bull Street, with a burial ground to the rear. After this was sold in 1856 (and subsequently demolished), a new meeting house was built on the old site to accommodate all Birmingham Friends. Overcrowding at Bull Street in the 1870s led to Friends settling new meetings in the suburbs.

Edgbaston Friends first met in a school room which they hired in Bath Row which continued to be used until 1892. By this date a plot was offered for a new building at the corner of George Road and St James Road, part of the garden of 17 Frederick Road (the

## Aesthetic value

The meeting house has a high aesthetic value. It is an attractive late Victorian building which retains much of its elegant classical-style exterior detail. Internally, the spaces and historic fittings add to the aesthetic value of the building. The site is a valuable part of the local scene and makes a positive contribution to the conservation area.

## Communal value

Since 1893 the meeting house has been a place for Quakers to meet and has a high community value. The meeting house provides a valued venue for local community groups.

home of Charles and Eliza Mary Sturge) which formed part of the Calthorpe Estate. Lord Calthorpe was willing to give the Friends a license to build a meeting house on the site provided it was a single-storey brick building to accommodate a meeting room, smaller committee room and ancillary facilities. The meeting house was built to the designs of William Henman and cost £143. The building opened in 1893 and was first known as George Road Meeting House.

By 1989, the meeting house was in need of investment and by 1991 sufficient funds had been raised following appeals; the two main roofs were replaced, new heating and lighting installed, the whole building was decorated, the suspended ceiling from the main meeting room was removed, and the >

# Edgbaston

ancillary rooms to the east were altered to create a larger kitchen. In 2009, internal alterations were made by architect Kevin Bramwell which consisted of creating a smaller meeting room by removing part of the hallway to the north and the kitchen and original toilets were removed.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house was built 1893 in one phase and the plan comprises of three ranges; low entrance and ancillary facilities to the east, the taller main meeting room to the north-west and the smaller meeting room to the south. It is built of red brick laid in Flemish bond, with moulded brick cornices, stone for the entrance porch and window surrounds, and the roof is covered in Welsh slate. The principal entrance into the meeting house is to the south east corner of the eastern range, with a pedimented stone portico with 1893 date stone, pilasters with acanthus leaf detail and a semi-circular arched doorway. The double oak doors have fielded and carved panels and brass fittings. The eastern face of this range has a single-light window and four 2-light windows with stone surrounds. To the north are 2-light and 3-light mullioned windows. The main meeting room forms the taller northern range west of the eastern range. The east gable end of the meeting room has a Venetian window, above the lower east range. The north elevation has two Venetian windows with 2-light windows with pediments either side. The south elevation is similar with one Venetian window and a 2-light window with pediment to its left. The smaller committee room projects from the main meeting room to the south. The gable is in the form of an open pediment with moulded brickwork and a Venetian window, the west side has a tripartite window.

The porch leads into the lobby and a north-south corridor with terrazzo floor, tongue and groove paneling, and a 5-panelled door with three panes of glass in the upper panels. The west wall contains an arched recess. The meeting room is decorated with classical features including a central pediment to the west wall with pilasters and entablature behind the stand. The latter has iron balustrade to the front. The east wall has a Venetian window with arched hoodmould. The north and south walls are decorated with pilasters and

arcaded panels containing the windows, the doorways are plain. The walls have a tongue and groove dado, and the floor is of timber covered in carpet to the central area. The 4-bay roof has exposed collar trusses on stone corbels and exposed purlins and rafters forming panels. The small committee room to the south has a similar ceiling with exposed roof trusses, and walls lined with tongue and groove panelling.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

Edgbaston is a suburb located to the south west of Birmingham city centre. The meeting house is within the boundaries of Edgbaston

Conservation Area; the appraisal describes the area as being characteristically green, exclusive and suburban. The buildings in the area range from the early nineteenth century to the late twentieth century showcasing a variety of architectural styles by different architects including J.J. Bateman, J.H. Chamberlain, Frederick Martin and John Madin. This conservation area has the highest number of listed buildings within its boundary, and surrounding the meeting house are several Grade II listed buildings including St James House to the west and the original house and service coach house wings at the skin hospital along with 37 to 37 George Road to the east. Directly opposite the meeting house is the house where George Cadbury lived.

The meeting house is bounded by timber fences and hedge grows, with gate piers to the south. There are areas of landscaping surrounding the meeting house on higher ground, including a pond to the west. The planting of shrubs and mature trees slightly obscure the views to the meeting house but contribute to the green and suburban character of the conservation area.

## Listed status

The building is not listed. It is noted as a locally listed building at grade A by Birmingham City Council. Grade A represents buildings which are of statutory list quality, although not currently nationally listed. The council policy is to seek national listing or to

serve a Building Preservation Notice where grade A local list buildings are imminently threatened. The architect William Henman was responsible for the design of Birmingham General Hospital. The building is considered to be a candidate for listing.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records identified. The site is built on the land which formed the garden of 17 Frederick Road; the site is of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

The meeting has used the Sustainability Toolkit for reference, ideas and activities. The Northfield Ecoentre will be visiting the meeting house in due course for an assessment. The following steps have been taken to improve sustainability:

- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** recycling and composting of waste.
- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** heating is on a timer, accessible roof space insulated, and meetings often held in one of the smaller rooms in winter which have secondary glazing. Eco light bulbs used where possible.
- **Building maintenance and refurbishment:** members undertake repairs and redecoration where possible and safe, to reduce costs.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees which provide wildlife habitats. Garden has butterfly-friendly wild areas, water butt, nesting boxes and a pond.
- **Transport:** use of bicycles, public transport and some sharing of vehicles.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken.

Level access is available into and throughout the meeting house. A hearing loop has been installed and there are facilities for partially-sighted people including bold clear signage and stair nosings in contrasting colours. A fully accessible toilet with shower is available. Entrances to the meeting house have ramped access along with hand rails.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately three to four hours and in community use for 15 hours each week, and the meeting house has the potential to be let for 240 hours. This however would not be manageable as the use of different rooms might well conflict. The agreement of lettings also needs to be in accordance with the Charity Commission, Council and Calthorpe Estate regulations. In accordance with Quaker beliefs and purposes the meeting house is often let to community groups and not usually groups primarily for profit.

It is by the discernment of the person responsible for lettings to consider short-term lets or of the whole Meeting (longer term lets). Criteria for use of the meeting house include safety for children and perceived inclusiveness of groups. The meeting house is available to be used for free by Quaker groups and for purposes agreed at by the local meeting. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to the pleasant ambience, quiet, access, fairly central location, garden, good acoustics, parking and reasonable rates.

## Information sources

Birmingham City Council, *Edgbaston Conservation Area Character Appraisal*, 1998.

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. 2, pp.625-26.

Doley, K., *Edgbaston Friends Meeting House 1893-1993: The Story of 100 years of Quaker Worship in George Road*, 1993.

Saunders, J., *Local Meeting Survey*, December 2015.

# Hall Green



**Friends Meeting House**  
1 Hamlet Road  
Birmingham  
B28 9BG

○ SP 10725 81471

**The meeting house has high heritage value as a former Reading Room built in 1883 which was converted for use as a meeting house in the late 1920s. The Victorian building retains most of its external architectural detailing making a positive contribution to the street scene.**

## Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure, built on former agriculture land and is of low evidential value.

## Historical value

---

The meeting house has high historical significance in terms of the local context, its former use as a Reading Room for the hamlet of Hall Green, use by the Baptists and the suburban growth of Hall Green. It reflects the history of local Quakers from the beginning of the twentieth century. The building has strong associations with the Severne families who were prominent in the hamlet.

## Historical background

MEETINGS IN BIRMINGHAM were first held in Friends' homes from 1659. By 1681 Friends were meeting in a house in Colmore's Lane and this was registered for worship in 1689. This remained in use until 1703 from when Friends met in a purpose-built meeting house in Bull Street. The site of the new meeting house also included a burial ground to the rear of the property. The meeting house underwent a number of alterations to extend it in 1778, 1802 and in 1823. By 1853 a decision was made for a new meeting house to meet the Friends' needs. A new meeting house was built on the old site in 1857 to accommodate all Birmingham Friends, however, by the time the meeting house was opened a number of suburban meetings had been settled. Prior to the meeting house closing in 1931, to be rebuilt to the

## Aesthetic value

---

The meeting house has a high aesthetic value, it is an attractive late Victorian building which retains much of its elegant exterior detail. The interior of the meeting room includes significant features such as the stained glass leaded windows and exposed roof. The building makes a positive contribution to the townscape.

## Communal value

---

The meeting house was originally built to serve the local community as a Reading Room. The building was purchased by the Quakers in 1927. It is still used by local community groups today and has high communal value.

designs of Hubert Lidbetter, a group of Friends had begun to meet in Hall Green from the 1920s. They met in a Reading Room built in 1883 at the expense of the Severne family. Prior to the Friends acquiring the building in 1927, it was owned by solicitor John Simcox and from 1903 the building was better known as the Simcox Reading Room. During the 1920s the Baptists met here until their purpose-built church was completed a few years later.

In 1930 an extension was proposed to designs by Edward Berks Norris which provided a link block between the meeting house (formerly the reading room) and the caretaker's house to the north, and an extension to form additional rooms including a committee room to the south. For reasons >

# Hall Green

---

unknown, presumably due to a lack of funds only the link block was constructed. In 1963, the adjoining caretakers' house underwent alterations to create classrooms, at a cost of £3,400. In 2000, the ground floor of the former caretaker's house was redesigned to allow for a kitchen and toilet facilities, designed by Michael Potter of Balsall Heath.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The Victorian building is built in red brick laid in Flemish bond, with red terracotta and stone details, timber-framing to the gables, and a pitched roof covered in terracotta tiles with barge boards. The building is formed of two components; the two-storey former caretaker's dwelling and the one-storey meeting house linked by a link block built in 1930 by Edward Berks Norris, together forming a rectangular plan.

The west elevation of the meeting house range to the north has a semi-circular bay with two 2-light cross casement windows and a doorway to the south. To the north of this bay is a 4-light mullioned and transom casement window with leaded lights with diamond panes. A double chimney stack with decorative stonework bearing the initials 'MS' and is dated '1883', it is suggested this is related to Meysey Severne or in memory of Marian Severne, from a local family. The south gable end has a large 3-light timber framed mullioned and transom window, with terracotta drip mould detailing. The east elevation consists of three 2-light cross windows with leaded lights, separated by brick buttresses.

The north range, the former caretaker's dwelling, is a two-storey building. It is characterised by strong gable features to each elevation with heavy barge boards and timber detailing. To the west elevation there is a canted bay window at ground level with oriel window above, to the south a large window infills a former entrance. A decorative gabled jetty is to the north face, with fishtail tile detailing, a central 3-light mullioned and transom window with timber detailing above. The jetty is supported on four large terracotta corbels, below is a further 3-light window leaded window. The east elevation is much plainer

in comparison and has four inserted 1-light windows with a 2-light leaded casement window at first floor. The two ranges are connected by a 1930s flat roofed link block by Edward Berks Norris. This provides the main entrance into the building from the east, with a hardwood and vertical -glazed double door. To the east of the link block is a decoratively carved timber lintel over the former entrance supported on carved terracotta corbels with the inscription "FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE".

From the lobby area access to the main meeting room is to the south, with ancillary facilities in the former caretaker's house to the north with additional meeting rooms at first floor. The meeting room is spacious and well lit, with colourful stained glass decoration in the windows. The floors are laid with pine flooring, the walls plainly painted and plastered with a dado rail. The 3-bay roof has arch-braced timber roof trusses supported on decorative corbels. A fire place is located to the west side with only the chimneypiece visible; tongue and groove panelling now infills the fireplace. The semi-circular bay is to the south-west corner.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house is located to the south of Birmingham, six miles from the city centre. The building is located on a corner plot, with Stratford Road to the west, with the attractive Hall Green Junior School opposite which dates from 1893 and Hamlet Road to the north. Hamlet Road is predominately residential in character with housing dating from the early twentieth century, interwar period and later infill development. Properties are set back from the road, the streets characterised by low red brick boundary walls and lined with trees. The land surrounding the meeting house is well planted with trees and shrubs which add to the character of the area.

## Listed status

Not listed. The building is designated as a locally listed building by Birmingham City Council at Grade

B. This grade of building is for structures or features that are important in the city wide context, or make a significant contribution to the local environment. Positive efforts will be made to the council to retain Grade B buildings. It may be a marginal candidate for listing.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. Historically the land was formerly farm land, and the site is likely to be of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

The meeting uses the Britain Yearly Meeting Sustainability Toolkit and the following steps have been taken to improve sustainability.

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** new heating and double glazing installed.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting house uses the local authority recycling scheme.
- **Building maintenance and refurbishment:** installation of double glazing.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** public transport used by Friends when possible and other car share.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken. The meeting house is fully accessible at ground floor level, with restricted access to the classrooms at first floor. The meeting house has a fully accessible WC and a hearing loop installed. The most recent

quinquennial inspection has made recommendations for a ramp to be installed to the rear fire exit and a demarcated parking space adjacent to the front of the premises if possible.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for six hours each week and is currently in community use for 64 hours each week. The meeting house has three rooms which are available for lettings for a total of 194 hours per week.

There is great diversity in the groups that use the meeting house representing a range of religious groups and ethnic backgrounds reflecting the composition of the local population. The Friends do not have a letting policy but the agreement outlines the requirements. Prohibited activities include: no smoking, no alcohol and gambling, no stiletto heels (cause damage to the floors).

## Information sources

Butler, D. M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. 2, pp. 627.

Tilt, M., *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

Hall Green Quaker Meeting House: *Description and a brief history*:

» <http://www.hallgreenquakers.org.uk/our-historic-building>

Religious History: Places of worship, in *A History of the County of Warwick: Volume 7, the City of Birmingham* ed. W.B. Stephens (London, 1964), pp. 434-482.

» <http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/warks/vol7/pp434-482>

# Hartshill



## **Friends Meeting House**

112 Castle Road  
Hartshill  
Nuneaton  
CV10 0SG

○ [SP 32619 94471](#)

**The meeting house has medium heritage value. Its modern design by Frederick Gregory creates a light and spacious interior and an exterior which is bold and striking. It was built on the site of an earlier Quaker school and master's house dating from the mid eighteenth century; the site has high heritage significance.**

## Evidential value

---

The current meeting house is a modern building with low evidential value. However, it was built on the site of an earlier Quaker school and master's house which gives the site medium evidential value.

## Historical value

---

The meeting house itself has low historical significance. However, the site has high historical value as a site of a former Quaker school which adds to the local context to Quakerism in the area; some historic furnishings are retained in the present meeting house. Hartshill is located close to the birth place of George Fox, the Founder of the Society of Friends.

## Historical background

HARTSHILL IS LOCATED three miles south west from what was once known as Drayton in the Clay (now called Fenny Drayton), the birth place of the founder of the Religious Society of Friends, George Fox.

In 1677 George Fox was at Hartshill at the house of Nathaniel Newton, in 1704 a barn given by Nathaniel Newton was used as meeting house for Hartshill. A new meeting house was built in 1720 but was subsequently destroyed by a fire. A request was made in Nathaniel's will for his wife, Sarah, to build a meeting house on the village green. Sarah died before Nathaniel, and so he undertook the building of a purpose-built meeting house in 1740. Following the death of Nathaniel, he bequeathed to the Trustees a piece of land (where the present meeting house

## Aesthetic value

---

This modern building has medium aesthetic value and makes a neutral contribution to the character of the townscape. It was designed by Frederick Gregory who is known to have experimented with different roof forms in Quaker meeting houses.

## Communal value

---

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for Quakers and in use since it opened in 1972. The building provides a local community focus and its facilities used by a number of local groups.

stands) for a school and school master's house be built. The exact date of the buildings are unknown, but it is suggested that they were built by 1754.

Hartshill Meeting ceased in 1838, as a result of declining members. Some thirty years later Arthur Naidh and Edwin Brewin moved into the area and the meeting was revived.

During the 1950s, the condition of the meeting house, school and school master's house was deteriorating and it was becoming costly to undertake regular repair and maintenance work. By the mid-1960s an Elder, Rex Harrod suggested that a request should be made to the Monthly Meeting for a new meeting house. Following this >



Monument, refurbished in 2016, at Fenny Drayton near Hartshill commemorating the birth of George Fox, the founder of Quakers

---

the Friends began a campaign of fundraising for the new buildings, and by 1972 the new meeting house designed by Frederick Gregory was completed, at a cost of £25,000. An image on an appeal leaflet for a new meeting house reveals that the building was initially designed as single-storey. The building was built with a two-storey range to the south to accommodate the warden.

The new building was located at the rear of the school and school master's house which were eventually demolished. The 1740 meeting house on the village green was sold, and was later converted into a dwelling.

In 2011, following a Disability Access Audit extra foyer space was created in the meeting house to provide easier access around the ground floor and a fully accessible WC was added.

## **The building and its principal fittings and fixtures**

The meeting house has a complex plan formed of three ranges: meeting room to the north range, central lobby area and the southern range comprising the smaller meeting rooms, toilet facilities and first floor warden's accommodation. It is built of brown brick laid in stretcher bond, the monopitch roofs are predominately covered in concrete tiles.

The west elevation forms the principal frontage; the entrance is reached via a canopied passage leading to the flat-roofed lobby area, well-lit by full length windows. The warden's accommodation and smaller meeting room to the south are aligned at an angle (north east to south west), designed with mono-pitched roofs; the southern range is shallower with five rectangular windows and entrance to the warden's accommodation, whilst the northern

meeting room is expressed by a lean-to range and row of clerestory windows. To the south east of this range, the fenestration consists of four rectangular windows at first floor, two central windows flanked by double patio doors at ground level. A shallower lean-to the north east provides additional storage facilities whilst the south west elevation has three rectangular windows. To the north of the entrance the meeting room range is characterised by its saltbox roof with glazing to the southern roof face.

The western elevation has a 5-light window and to the left of this there is a rectangular recess to the north west corner at ground level, features replicated to the rear (east) of the meeting room in addition to a rear exit; the north elevation of the meeting room is blind. To the east of the complex is a further smaller lean-to adjoining the lobby area containing the kitchen facilities, this has been further extended by a flat roofed structure with polycarbonate sheeting providing an area in use as a heritage room with information relating to the history of Hartshill Meeting.

Internally, the main meeting room, smaller meeting rooms and ancillary facilities are accessed via a pleasant, spacious and well-lit lobby area. The interior of the main meeting room is a dramatic space, dominated by the sloping ceiling with the south face being most prominent with a series of vertical narrow windows. The walls are plastered and plainly painted and the hardwood flooring is laid in a cube pattern. A stage area to the north end is separated by a curtain. To the south, moveable timber panels allow expansion of the meeting room into the lobby area if required. There is fixed seating lining the east and west walls.

### Attached burial ground

There is no burial ground on the same site as the meeting house. However, a rose bed within the grounds is used as a place to scatter ashes.

### The meeting house in its wider setting

Hartshill is a village within the borough of North Warwickshire, four miles north-west of Nuneaton and twenty-four miles east of Birmingham. The area to the south-west of the meeting house is a Scheduled Ancient Monument, Hartshill Castle; the ruins are Grade II listed.

The general area of Castle Road is characterised by late twentieth century housing comprising small terraces and flat roofed 3-storey blocks, and interspersed within this modern development are a houses dating from the eighteenth and nineteenth century. To the north of Castle Road is the village green where the former meeting house dating from 1740 has been converted into a dwelling. The former burial ground is located here ([O SP 32599 94560](#)) with burials recorded from 1714 until 1787; prominent Quaker Benjamin Bartlett is buried here.

The meeting house is set back from the road with a small brown brick boundary wall and the front garden is well planted with trees and shrubs. A sweeping drive from Castle Road leads to an area of car parking to the south-west of the meeting house. To the rear of the building is a garden which is being developed as an eco-garden with a plastic bottle greenhouse. To the east of the meeting house is Hartshill allotment site.

### Listed status

Not listed. The meeting house is not considered to be a future candidate for listing. The modern design by known architect Frederick Gregory may merit inclusion on the local authority's local list.

### Archaeological potential of the site

The meeting house is built on the site of a former Quaker school and master's house dating from the >

mid-eighteenth century; it is therefore likely to be of medium archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** addition of double glazing to most windows, cavity wall insulation, Solar PV panels installed on roof of warden's flat in 2016, installation of individual heaters and development of an eco-garden.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting house uses the local authority recycling scheme.
- **Building maintenance & refurbishment:** addition of a foyer to add extra disabled access, aluminium frames and double glazing to foyer, large double glazed aluminium windows to meeting room, fascias and guttering replaced and, large flat roof replaced with rubber roofing.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the meeting has a large garden part of which is being developed as an eco-garden with a plastic bottle greenhouse and a focus on sustainability. At the front of the meeting, the main border has been developed as a George Fox garden with plants connected to the time and memory of George Fox.
- **Transport:** the meeting house can be accessed by public transport and car parking is available.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit was undertaken in 2011. Recommended changes implemented from the audit include a fully accessible toilet, hearing loop, and extra foyer space to allow easier access

around the building. There is level access into and throughout the meeting house. The external steps have white nosings to accommodate the partially-sighted.

The most recent quinquennial inspection in 2015 acknowledged that the premises are accessible to the front of the property and circulation within the premises is also possible. The survey suggests the consideration of ramps to the rear fire exit routes.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately five hours and community use for 10 hours each week. The meeting house has the potential to be let for 120 hours each week (three meeting rooms). The three rooms (meeting room, foyer or classroom) can be booked for either morning, afternoon or evening sessions or all day, and all lettings include use of the kitchen facilities.

There is a lettings policy. Conditions for use of the meeting house include the prohibition of using tobacco or other smoking materials, alcohol, gambling and the building may not be used for commercial use. The meeting house is popular for lettings due the quietness of the building, flexible space available and price.

## Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp.640-641.

Clare Barnett and Rebecca Dyde, *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

Hartshill

» <http://www.1624country.org.uk/Hartshill.htm>

» <http://www.hartshillquakers.org.uk/>



Stage area to the north end of main meeting room set up for Sunday evening programmed meeting for worship

---



Barn given in 1704 by Nathaniel Newton and used as meeting house

---

# Kings Heath



**Friends Meeting House**

17 Colmore Road  
Kings Heath  
Birmingham  
B14 7PE

○ 06923 81288

**The meeting house is characterised by its low-key design and plain materials. The building has relatively low heritage value and architectural significance and its value is mainly communal.**

## Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure of relatively recent date. The Birmingham Historic Environment Record has not identified the site for any archaeological interest.

## Historical value

---

The meeting house overall has medium historical significance. Internally, furnishings from the former Friends Institute provide a local context of the evolution of the meeting and strong associations with the Cadbury family.

---

## Historical background

THE FRIENDS' INSTITUTE on Moseley Road was built at the expense of Richard Cadbury, to the designs of Ewan and James Alfred Harper in 1898. Cadbury, a Quaker, wanted to create a single venue which would provide a base for worship but also an adult school, Sunday school and a place for social work. The institute which opened a year after Cadbury's death in 1899 consisted of a coffee room, reading room, a lecture room at first floor level to seat 400, thirty-seven classrooms across two levels, a large hall which could accommodate 2000, and a gymnasium.

Prior to the Second World War, the minutes of November 1936 note that negotiations had been taking place for a plot of land in Kings Heath, for housing. The land was purchased in 1937 with the

## Aesthetic value

---

This modern building has medium aesthetic value and makes a neutral contribution to the character of the townscape.

## Communal value

---

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for the Quakers which has been in use since it opened in 1983. The building provides a local community focus and its facilities used by a number of local groups

development of the land under the direction of Dorothy Cadbury. At her expense, ten much sought-after dwellings were built by 1938 and passed on to the Bournville Village Trust to manage.

By the mid-twentieth century, as a result of a decline in membership and the increasing costs of running the Friends' Institute, discussions were held regarding relocating the meeting to Kings Heath. There was still an undeveloped site on the land purchased in Kings Heath in 1937. It was also a time when other institutes such as Selly Oak and Northfield were relocating to smaller new purpose-built meeting houses and the institutes were given to the city for community purposes. Agreement was reached to build a new meeting house in Kings Heath, with provision >

# Kings Heath

---



Friends' Institute, Moseley Road, 1899 (Kings Heath meeting archive)

---

planned for expansion if required in the future. The institute passed into the ownership of the city in March 1983 and the new meeting house in Kings Heath was built by S.T. Walker & Partners in January 1983. One of the ten properties which were built in 1939 was subsequently allocated as a warden's house.

Four years after the meeting house had been built more space was required for storage and for additional meeting rooms. A local Quaker, Geoffrey Collins suggested the meeting house should be extended, which was agreed. Collins, along with his colleagues at Harry Bloomer Partnership designed an extension consisting of a new rear entrance, storage rooms, an office and enlargement of one of the existing meeting rooms. The extension was completed in 1989.

## **The building and its principal fittings and fixtures**

The meeting house was opened in 1983, and extended to the west in 1989.. The building originally was rectangular in plan and as a result of the extension now has an irregular polygonal footprint. The one-storey meeting house is built with red brick laid in stretcher bond and the hipped and gabled roof is covered in concrete tiles.

The front elevation to the east comprises a central projecting gable with hardwood double doors.

The north and south walls of the gable include single uPVC windows. Flanking the entrance is the main structure of the meeting house with elevations which are blind. There are three window openings to the north and two to the south with a side entrance. The rear of the property to the west consists of the 1988 extension by Harry Bloomer Partnership. The design is formed of two hexagonal structures divided by a ramp to provide better access into the meeting house.

The meeting rooms, kitchen, toilets, store rooms and office are accessed via a pleasant light and spacious lobby area. The lobby area is carpeted, with a suspended ceiling, plastered and painted walls to the south whilst to the north hardwood veneer sliding doors provide access into a meeting room. This meeting room was extended in 1988 and an additional sliding door separates the extension to the original footprint of the room. The main meeting room to the south has a suspended ceiling, carpeted flooring, plastered and painted walls. The room is well lit by windows from the south and west. A mixture of modern loose chairs are arranged around a central table.

## **The meeting house in its wider setting**

Kings Heath is located five miles south of Birmingham city centre. The meeting house is

located in Colmore Road, which consists of a number of dwellings built at the expense of Dorothy Cadbury during the inter-war period. The properties are a mixture of two-storey detached and semi-detached buildings, characterised by hipped roofs and front facing gables. The meeting house is set back from the road and is bounded by a hedgerow along with white metal fencing. To the west is a timber pagoda with an area of landscaping and a car park.

#### Listed status

Not listed. Not considered to be a future candidate for listing.

#### Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site, it is therefore likely to be of low archaeological potential.

#### Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** improved insulation, installation of uPVC windows.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting house uses the local authority recycling scheme.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats

#### Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken, but the most recent quinquennial inspection in 2015 has made the following recommendations: line marking for accessible parking and provision of accessible WC facility. The premises are accessible; a ramp was built to the west elevation as part of the extension and there is level access throughout the building. The rear fire exit route to the north of the main meeting room is not accessible for non-ambulant persons and addressing this is one of the recommendations in the quinquennial survey. There is a hearing loop installed but no specific facilities for the partially-sighted.

#### Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately two hours and in community use for 50 hours each week. There is a lettings policy. Parties are only accepted for regular groups who use the meeting house. No groups are able to use the meeting house for free. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to its peaceful atmosphere.

#### Information sources

Geoffrey Collins, *New Growth at Kings Heath, The Friend*, May 1984, p. 657.

More Memories and Minutes, *Mosely Road to Colmore Road*, 1993.

David Gough, *Local Meeting Survey*, November 2015.

# Northfield



**Friends Meeting House**  
Church Road  
Birmingham  
B31 2LD

○ SP 02342 79721

**The building has medium heritage significance as a meeting house purpose-built in 1929, by Quaker architect Ernest Hickman. The site has connections with the Cadbury family who donated the site for the present meeting house.**

### Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure dating from the beginning of the twentieth century, not on a site of a former building. It is of low evidential value.

### Historical value

---

The meeting house has medium historical value, as a relatively recent building typical of the small, plain, Neo-Georgian meeting houses of this date in the Birmingham area. It has associations with George Cadbury who donated a piece of land for the present meeting house. Church Road is also home to the former Friends meeting house and collectively provides a local context into Quakerism in the area.

### Historical background

IN THE LATE nineteenth century George Cadbury had purchased Street Farm, an area of 105 acres about 200m north of St Laurence Church, the centre of the ancient village of Northfield. Most of the farm was added to the Bournville Village Trust and now forms its southwest boundary. In 1905 some of the land was given to Birmingham Council to add to the city park now called Victoria Common opened in 1901. A plot was kept back and eventually used for Quaker purposes. During the nineteenth century Friends from Cofon Hackett (south of Northfield) had first began to meet in Longbridge, in what is known today as the Christadelphian Hall. Friends later met at various locations including a hall in Station Road and a disused malt house located along Bunbury Road. George and Elizabeth Cadbury built the “Friends

### Aesthetic value

---

The meeting house is designed in neo-Georgian style following the trend set by Hubert Lidbetter for inter-war meeting house designs. The symmetrical frontage, sweeping eaves, attractive brick work and the large sash windows are all typical of this style. The building is well-designed and has medium aesthetic value.

### Communal value

---

The meeting house was built for Quaker use. However, it is also a community resource and has high communal value.

Meeting House” (later called the “Northfield Institute”, today “The Adult Education Centre”) for Friends’ use on land from Street Farm. George and his brother Richard were advocates of providing facilities to provide educational, leisure and worship facilities under one roof in Birmingham. The “Friends Meeting House” on Church Road opened in 1892 and consisted of a school room, skittle alley and a coffee tavern. Following in this tradition the Selly Oak Institute opened in 1894 and the Friends Institute (Moseley Road) in 1899. The Northfield Institute remained the venue for worship for the next thirty-eight years.

Other structures built on the plot acquired as part of the Street Farm purchase included six cottages (the Sudbury Cottages). These were intended originally >

# Northfield

---

to house Friends but are now all in private ownership. Southeast of the Northfield Institute another building was constructed which George Cadbury gave to Warwickshire Monthly Meeting. Originally it served as a post office; in recent years the main building has been leased to an estate agent. An annex to the rear which had served as a used bookshop for many years was renovated and extended in 2007 by Central England Area Meeting to make the Northfield Ecocentre.

During the early years of the twentieth century Northfield Friends were considering relocating the meeting to a new meeting house. Factors such as changes in membership, costs of maintaining a building the size of the Northfield Institute and increased traffic on Church Road played a strong part in the decision. Friends of other institutes in the city were also facing similar predicaments. Butler (1999) notes that the meeting house was damaged by fire, which influenced the decision for a new smaller meeting house. The institute was given to the Birmingham Education Authority and is now used as an adult education centre.

The new meeting house was designed by Ernest J Hickman, and opened in 1930, at a cost of £3,400. It was located on a site donated by George Cadbury to the southeast of the Sudbury Cottages and the Northfield Ecocentre. To the rear it adjoins Victoria Common. It is separated from Church Road by three Bournville Trust houses. Meeting House Lane (still in Friends ownership) gives access to the meeting house and Victoria Common. In 1961, the meeting house was extended to provide a class room (now quiet room) to the north west of the meeting house. In 1975 a suspended ceiling was introduced into the main meeting room and by the late twentieth century the kitchen and additional storerooms and accessible WC had been added.

## **The building and its principal fittings and fixtures**

The meeting house was built in 1929 from designs by Quaker architect Edward Hickman and opened in 1930. The building was built in three phases; the original meeting house with an I-plan, extended in 1961 to the north east corner and further extended

in the twenty first century. It is built in brown / red brick laid in Flemish bond, the hipped roof is covered in clay tiles. The main entrance is to the south west (for clarity in the report this will be referred to as the west); the symmetrical front has a slightly projecting hipped central porch with pilasters, swept eaves and dog tooth detailing to eaves. The arched brick doorway with keystone surrounds the double timber and glazed doors with fanlight. To each side of the entrance are 2-light timber casement windows.

The north and south side elevations are symmetrically arranged with a 3-bay range to the main body of the meeting house with a parapet to the roof, 20-pane sash windows flanking the central double glazed doors leading to the garden on the south-east elevation. At each end of the elevation are projecting bays with sweeping hipped roofs and 12-pane sliding sash windows. The twenty first century extension is attached to the north east corner of the meeting room; a small flat roof structure built in red / orange brick. To the rear is the 1961 extension designed sympathetically to the main meeting house, with pitched roof and built in a brown brick.

The main entrance from the west leads into a small lobby area flanked each side by toilet facilities. The meeting room is light and spacious, with a hardwood herringbone floor, walls are plastered and painted with picture rails.

## **The meeting house in its wider setting**

Northfield is located six miles south west of Birmingham. Much of the area developed prior to the First World War; properties lined on Church Road are a mixture of detached dwellings with gables facing the road and short terraces with pitched roofs and bay windows. The former meeting house is located along Church Road now occupied by the Northfield Adult Education Centre. Meeting House Lane (owned by Central England Area Meeting) runs off Church Road between three Bournville Village Trust houses to the north and the telephone exchange to the south. It gives access to Northfield meeting house to its left, Victoria Common and a Council car park behind the telephone exchange to its right. The meeting house grounds include parking for

about twelve cars and a garden with mature trees. High hedges and a gated fence enclose these grounds.

### Listed status

Not listed. The meeting house would be worthy inclusion on a local list.

### Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. Historic OS maps reveal no previous building on the site of the present meeting house. The site is likely to be of low archaeological potential.

### Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** the meeting supported the establishment of Northfield Ecocentre which offers practical ideas and advice on sustainability elements including energy saving, organic gardening and recycling. A 4kWp solar PV array has been installed on the south roof
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting has recycling bins for plastic bottles, tins, paper and card.
- **Building maintenance and refurbishment:** secondary, double and triple glazing to a number of windows and doors, Glass wall replaced with insulated brick wall. In November 2015 the lofts were insulated and cavity walls in the extensions were filled. Improved heating controls planned for 2016.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** the meeting house is served by local bus services.

### Access

A Disability Access Audit is currently being undertaken. In 2004, a ramp was installed to improve access into the meeting house and a WC with an alarm system installed suitable for disabled persons. A quinquennial inspection carried out in 2015 by Barnsley Bate (chartered building surveyors) identified the WC as being non-compliant with the Equality Act and have recommended that alterations are considered in the future. The nosings on the external stairs into the meeting house are in a contrasting colour (white) to assist partially-sighted people. An induction loop for the hard of hearing is installed in the main meeting room.

### Community use

Northfield local Quaker meeting was closed in 2004 and the meeting house is used by Friends for a monthly Sunday evening meeting for worship. The meeting house is now largely used by Northfield Quaker Pre School and is in community use for 70 hours each week in term time and 120 hours in school holidays. There is a lettings policy. Friends have the right to refuse bookings from a group or individual whose words or actions diminish the dignity of any person or group of people. Quaker groups have free use of space. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to its convenient location, quiet ambience, being well-priced and attractive. Friends are planning to have Wi-Fi in the near future.

### Information sources

Broomfield, M. A., *Bournville Then and Now* (York: William Sessions Ltd, 2001).

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. 1, pp.83-87.

Pickvance, E, *Northfield Meeting House*, 2000.

Harriet Martin, *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

# Redditch



**Friends Meeting House**  
Oxhill Close  
Matchborough  
Redditch  
B98 0ER

○ SP 07104 66384

The building has medium significance as a meeting house purpose-built in 1974, by Quaker architect Selby Clewer. The building was built at a time when Redditch was expanding as a result of the New Town designation made in 1964 and is surrounded by housing built by the Redditch Friends Housing Association. The meeting house comprises a striking oval structure with a copper-covered roof which provides a focal point in the area.

**Evidential value**

This is a purpose-built structure of relatively recent date, on the site of former farm land. It is of low evidential value.

**Historical value**

The meeting house is located in Matchborough, an area of new development from the 1970s as a result of Redditch being designated a New Town in 1964. The meeting house has some historical value for its association with Selby Clewer, a Quaker architect who was the chief architect for the Bournville Village Trust. The area surrounding the meeting house was used by the Redditch Friends Housing Association to provide housing to those in need.

Collectively, the housing and the meeting house provide an important aspect of architectural and social history in the context of a New Town development.

**Historical background**

FRIENDS BEGAN MEETING in Redditch from the late seventeenth century. Butler (1999) notes that in the year 1708 the Quarterly Meeting purchased Redditch meeting house and adjoining land at a cost of £40. Soon after, membership numbers declined and the meeting house only served for the purposes of the annual meeting until 1785. By 1805, the meeting house was converted into a dwelling and subsequently sold in 1820.

It was not until the twentieth century when a meeting was established again, in 1936. Friends met in their homes until a former hall in Worcester Road was purchased for £1,450 in 1953. During the 1960s, the land occupied by the Friends was required by developers to form part of the planned New Town.

**Aesthetic value**

The meeting house has medium aesthetic value. The most aesthetically pleasing elevation is to the south west, with the tall oval structure with a copper-covered roof, which provides a focal point. The remaining elevations are of more utilitarian appearance.

**Communal value**

The building is now used by a local dance group, and the west range is used by the tenants of the Redditch Friends Housing Association but is not used by other groups. It has medium community value as a place associated with the Quakers and the Redditch Friends Housing Association.

From 1970 Friends met in the institute of St Stephens Church for the following four years.

Major change occurred in Redditch in 1964 when the area was designated a New Town. A series of self-contained neighbourhoods were planned by Hugh Wilson. The proposals included expanding existing areas of housing dating from the twentieth century and creating new areas of development to the east of the River Arrow including; Matchborough, Winyates and Church Hill.

Development in Matchborough began in the early 1970s and during this time a group of Friends formed the Redditch Friends' Housing Association. Friends at the time were concerned with housing shortages >

# Redditch

---

for single persons and single parents. In order to mitigate this Friends obtained money from Redditch Borough Council, the Housing Association and from compensation received from having to relocate to build flats in Oxhill Close.

A new meeting house was built to the north east of these new flats by the Quaker architect James Selby Clewer (better known as the chief architect for the Bournville Village Trust) in 1974. The meeting house was built with laundry facilities and a family resource centre for the tenants in the neighbouring buildings. Friends built further flats in 1987 and have since acquired a number of houses in the area.

A decline in membership resulted in the meeting house being leased to Worcestershire County Council from 2007 to 2015. At present the meeting house is leased to Latham School of Dance on a full time basis.

## **The building and its principal fittings and fixtures**

The building has an irregular polygonal footprint, with a large single-storey oval structure to the south-west, containing the main meeting room. The meeting house is built with red brick laid in stretcher bond and the flat roof is covered in green copper, a material favoured and used on other Clewer designs (Quinton Methodist Church, Halesowen and St David's Church, Shenley Green). The copper covering is brought down over the upper part of the oval structure as an ornamental fascia.

The meeting house is accessed from the north, the walls flanking the entrance are blind with projecting header brick details and double doors with glazed side screens to the entrance. The north and east elevations have rectangular windows below the eaves, all with protective covering, and to the north projecting header details are used below the windows. The oval meeting room structure is the main feature of the south-west elevation, with clerestory lighting and two single window openings and doorway at ground floor. This component is flanked by two rectangular ranges, the laundry to the west and ancillary facilities to the east.

The main meeting room, smaller meeting rooms and ancillary facilities are accessed via a lobby area which leads into two small corridors either side of the main meeting room. The lobby and passageways have plastered and painted walls, with tiled flooring and are lit by a series of roof lights. The interior of the main meeting room is oval in shape. The room has a suspended tiled ceiling, with two large circular chandeliers dating from the 1970s. The flooring has recently been laid with a vinyl covering to accommodate the use by the dance group. The walls are of exposed buff brick laid in stretcher bond. The room is well lit by the clerestory windows and two large windows to the south-west. The Friends now worship at Barnt Green & Redditch local meeting; all the internal furnishings are associated with the dance company.

## **The meeting house in its wider setting**

The meeting house is located in Redditch one of the second generation 'New Towns' designated during 1961-66. As part of the expansion of Redditch, Matchborough was developed in the 1970s in an area south of the River Arrow. The area shares characteristic features associated with other new towns; areas of open space, low density residential with some industrial sites, and a road system with many roundabouts and in common with the later new towns, an emphasis on public transport and community facilities.

To the north of the meeting house is a residential area designed by Mason Richards & Partners, distinctively characterised by mono-pitched roofs. To the south west of the meeting house is a series of flats built as part of the Redditch Friends Housing Association in Oxhill Close, which feature decorative concrete panelling. Finally, to the east are a number of commercial properties which are set amongst a large area of open space surrounding Ipsley Brook.

The meeting house itself is situated to enable easy access to and from the housing estates to the north and south west, with a number of pedestrian walkways. To the south west is a boundary wall built

of red brick between the meeting house and Oxhill Close, a children's play area with a small boundary wall constructed in red brick. To the east the meeting house is separated from Matchborough Way by grass verges lined with trees.

## Listed status

Not listed. The architects department of the Bournville Village Trust designed a number of buildings in the Midlands for which Selby Clewer was Chief Architect. The Trust was involved in the design of a number of places of worship including St David's Church (not listed), in Henley Green.

The oval structure of the meeting house with its copper-covered roof provides a focal point in the area but the building as a whole does not represent one of the better examples of building designs for which Selby Clewer was responsible. The building may merit inclusion on a local list.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Worcestershire Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. An OS map of 1955 reveals the area still being used as farm land; the site is likely to be of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

Less attention is paid to the sustainability of the building it is now managed as an investment property with an uncertain long term future.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken, but level access is available into and throughout the meeting house. There is a fully accessible WC within the building, however no induction loop or facilities for partially-sighted people have been installed.

## Community use

The meeting house is leased to a local dance group which is compatible with Quaker values, and it is not used by any other groups.

## Information sources

Butler, D. M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. 2, pp. 699-700.

Brooks, A. and Pevsner, N., *The Buildings of England: Worcestershire 2nd ed.* (New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 2007), pp.545-573.

Redditch Friends Housing Association:  
 » [redditchfriendsha.co.uk](http://redditchfriendsha.co.uk)

Bradbury, J., *Local Meeting Survey*, September 2015.

# Selly Oak



**Friends Meeting House**

930 Bristol Road  
Birmingham  
B29 6NB

○ SP 04006 82040

**The 1926 building has medium heritage significance as an example of a meeting house designed in a domestic Neo-Georgian style by the Bournville Village Trust architects. The meeting house was a gift from Edward Cadbury, the eldest son of George Cadbury.**

## Evidential value

This is a purpose-built structure of early twentieth century date. The Birmingham Historic Environment Record has not identified the site for any archaeological interest.

## Historical value

The meeting house overall has medium historical significance. The meeting house is typical of the small, plain, domestic-style buildings built by the Bournville Village Trust. It has strong associative value with the Trust and the Cadbury family.

## Historical background

FRIENDS IN SELLY Oak first began to meet in the late nineteenth century, in a Workmen's Hall in Elliott Road. From 1892 records indicate that approximately 170 Friends were attending Sunday evening worship. The Adult School Movement was gaining pace at the same time, founded by local Quaker philanthropists to address the education needs of the community. Joseph Sturge, who established British School Rooms in Severn Street was a key figure in the movement. The classes expanded to the suburbs including to Selly Oak, with George Cadbury, a Quaker manufacturer and philanthropist among the teachers.

By the late nineteenth century, George Cadbury had started to build Bournville Village which included buildings for community use, including venues for

## Aesthetic value

The meeting house is designed in a plain neo-Georgian domestic style typical of the era. The interior includes some attractive features such as the exposed timber roof in the main meeting room. The building is largely hidden from the street, and overall the building has medium aesthetic value.

## Communal value

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for the Quakers which has been in use since it opened in 1926. The building provides a local community focus and its facilities are used by a number of local groups.

education, social and worship under one roof, as part of the 'Institute' movement. The Selly Oak Institute on Bristol Road was built at the expense of George Cadbury and opened in 1894 at a cost of £5,500. The Institute included a large club room, three committee rooms and a large hall. The Institute remained the venue for Quaker worship for the Selly Oak Meeting until 1927.

In the early twentieth century, as a result of both declining numbers and the upkeep costs of the building, Friends considered whether to remain at the Institute or relocate to new premises. In 1925, Edward Cadbury informed the Friends of a plot of land situated between Langleys Road and Bristol Road; Selly Oak Friends decided to build a smaller >

# Selly Oak

---

meeting house at Bristol Road. It is suggested the Bournville Village Trust architect produced the designs for the meeting house, although a named architect has not been identified. The meeting house opened in 1927, and the Institute was given to the city to continue as a community venue.

In 1966, an extension was built to the designs of Bournville Village Trust onto the south west to accommodate a children's room and in 2002 Paul Hing and Jones designed the toilet extension to the northeast.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The materials are brown brick laid in stretcher bond, with white render, and a clay tiled roof. The plan is roughly L-shape, with a kitchen and additional meeting room within the 1966 extension. The north-west front elevation comprises the gable end of the meeting house with a central projecting bay forming the entrance, and side pavilions under a hipped roof. The doorway has a 12-panelled double door, up two steps. The gable of the meeting house above the doorway has a 12-pane window in a semi-circular arch.

The entrance is flanked by two 9-pane windows. The side elevations of the meeting room have three six over nine paned windows separated by buttresses. The side pavilion to the north-east was extended in 2002 and a further projection on this elevation contains the boiler room under a cat slide roof with a double brick chimney stack. To the south west elevation is the single storey hipped roof extension of 1966 in red brick laid in stretcher bond. The gable end of the rear elevation to the south east has a 2-light cross window flanked by single light windows with a 2-light cross window above.

The lobby area is plainly painted white with an inscription on the plaster 'EDC 1926' for Edward Cadbury. The flooring is herringbone parquet and a series of six panelled doors lead to the storage areas, WC facilities and the main meeting room. The 4-bay meeting room has an exposed roof structure of three king post trusses with raking struts, carrying three

tiers of purlins. The walls are plastered and painted white with timber panelling to dado height. There is a perimeter platform on three sides with loose historic benches. The room is well lit by windows from the north east and south west walls. A doorway to the south west corner leads to a small lobby area providing access to the piano room, smaller meeting room and ancillary facilities.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

Selly Oak is a suburb located four miles south west of Birmingham city centre. The meeting house is located off the south side of Bristol Road, predominately a residential area. The road is lined with semi-detached and detached houses dating from the beginning of the twentieth century, built in Arts and Crafts style, the houses are set back from the road, many with gables facing the road and each with variations in style. The meeting house cannot be seen from Bristol Road, as it is situated up a long driveway accessed between two dwellings. To the west is a warden's bungalow, now privately let. There is a cast iron lamp post to the north-west of the meeting house. The area surrounding the meeting house is well planted with trees and shrubs.

A detached burial ground is located at Lodge Hill Cemetery in Selly Oak, in the Free Church section (O SP 02800 82300). The burial ground dates from the time burials at Bull Street ceased and is used by all Birmingham meetings. The burial ground includes Bull Street burials which were re-interred before the Priory Rooms were constructed. Burials of local Quakers include Richard and Emma Cadbury, William A Cadbury, John Hoyland and John Henry Barlow who was an ambassador for peace during the war and the first director of Bournville Village Trust, a post he held for twenty three years.

## Listed status

Not listed. The meeting house is not considered to be a future candidate for listing but would merit inclusion on a local list.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site, it is therefore likely to be of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** roof spaces have been insulated.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting house uses the local authority recycling scheme.
- **Building maintenance & refurbishment:** the meeting house manager regularly undertakes maintenance checks on the building.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** the Meeting encourages Friends to cycle, walk and car share.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken. Level access into the building is available via the 1966 extension located to the south west side of the meeting house, where a ramp and hand rail is available. There is level access throughout the main body of the meeting house, a hearing loop has been installed and a fully accessible toilet. There are currently no facilities to accommodate the partially sighted.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for

approximately four hours and community use for 38 hours each week. The meeting house has the potential to be let for 210 hours each week (three meeting rooms: main meeting room, piano room or small meeting room). There is a lettings policy. The meeting house is not let to political parties. Groups that use the meeting house on a regular basis include the Birmingham Natural Society, an accordion group, a Friendship group and it is used as a venue for music exams. The meeting house is popular for lettings due its peaceful location and good value for money.

## Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain*, 1999, vol. 2, pp. 630.

Osbourne, J., *Selly Oak Friends 1895-2000*, 2000.

*Selly Oak Centre Centenary June 1894-1994 Programme of Events*, 1994.

Barnaby Waters

# Stourbridge



**Friends Meeting House**  
Scotts Road  
Stourbridge  
DY8 1UR

○ 89908 84525

**The meeting house has high heritage value as a purpose-built late seventeenth century meeting house with historic fittings dating from the eighteenth century, an earlier burial ground and connections to the local Crowley family.**

## Evidential value

The building and site have medium evidential values primarily associated with the potential to yield information about the building's construction and past Quaker activity.

## Historical value

The meeting house retains its historic layout, as well as a number of features dating from the eighteenth century, including the gallery and seating. The land where the meeting house is sited was given by Ambrose Crowley, a prominent blacksmith in Stourbridge. The meeting house and burial ground have high historical value.

## Historical background

IN THE SEVENTEENTH century a small group of Friends were meeting in Stourbridge, at each other's homes. It was not until after the Toleration Act of 1689 that Friends were confident to build a meeting house; Friend Ambrose Crowley, an ironmonger, leased the land of the present meeting house to the Quakers at a peppercorn rent and reference is made to a 'newly erected edifice' in 1689. At this time the meeting house was a simple structure with a fireplace to the west end. Additions to the interior during the late eighteenth and early nineteenth century included tongue and groove oak panelling and a gallery with folding screens to the east and a fireplace (south east corner of the gallery) for the women's meeting. Externally, a small lean-to was added to the south elevation.

## Aesthetic value

In keeping with Quaker principles, the meeting house is a plain, but attractive building, and retains a good set of fitted oak benches, panelling and ironmongery to the windows and doors. The building has high aesthetic value.

## Communal value

The meeting house has high communal value as a building developed for the Quakers which has been in use since it opened in 1689. It is also used by local community groups and is open to the public, in conjunction with Heritage Open Days each year in September.

The meeting house would remain little altered until the mid-twentieth century, when additional space was created during the 1960s for a children's room and toilet facilities. A separate flat-roofed building was built to the designs by Folkes & Folkes to the south of the meeting house with a small courtyard dividing the two buildings. In 1994, the two buildings were connected with a sympathetically designed extension to the east of the meeting house combined with the construction of a new roof over the courtyard, providing a kitchen and lobby area

In 2002, major repair work was undertaken which focused on the main ceiling beam at the front of the gallery, remedying damp issues and repairs to the lath and plaster ceiling. During these works two >

# Stourbridge

former windows to the north wall were discovered along with a lintel over the original entrance.

The final major work undertaken was providing a hipped roof over the children's room in 2004.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The present meeting house was built in three phases. The original meeting house was built in 1689. It is a single storey building, rectangular in plan and built of red brick laid in English Garden wall bond with render, some Flemish bond, brick dentil detail under eaves, and the pitched roof is covered in clay pantiles. The south elevation has two 3-light casement leaded windows and one 2-light window, with two hipped dormer windows that cut through the eaves (the eastern dormer introduced in 1994). To the east of this elevation is the 1994 link block which provided the principal entrance into the meeting house. Adjoining the link block to the south is the 1960s children's room designed by Folkes and Folkes with a hipped roof added in 2004. The north and west elevations of the main meeting room are blind with the north elevation rendered. The east of the meeting room is the sympathetically designed 1994 extension, the elevation has a rendered finish with a 2-light leaded window; adjoining this is the blind elevation of the children's room.

Internally, the spacious common room area with exposed modern timber ceiling supported on two timber trusses provides access to the main meeting room, ancillary facilities and children's room. The original external east wall of the meeting house remains, with a two 2-light leaded casement windows. The original lobby area of the meeting room is now the library with terracotta quarry tiles, rich oak fittings with ironmongery believed to be by Ambrose Crowley dating from 1689 and access to the gallery above. The meeting room contains horizontal oak tongue and groove panelling to dado height, with walls lime-plastered and softwood floor with a carpet covering. A raised elders' stand with fitted seats is to the west, with fixed seating along the north, south and west walls. To the east is the gallery, supported

on two pillars, which has folding oak screens and a splat balustrade. A cast iron fireplace is located to the south east corner of the gallery. The meeting room is lit by natural light from the south and the ceiling is fitted with pendant lighting. The roof is supported by two queen post trusses partially obscured by the lath and plaster ceiling.

## Attached burial ground

The burial ground is to the south of the meeting house. In the 1960s, as part of the children's room extension, some of the gravestones were relocated to the south boundary wall in front of the flowerbeds; these are laid flat. There are 57 recorded burials covering 1689 to 1945, identified on a plan held in the meeting house and within the archives of Bull Street meeting house in Birmingham. Whilst the burial ground is no longer used for burials ashes are still scattered in the garden area and small memorial plates have been laid.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

Stourbridge is located on the edge of the Black Country, south west of Dudley and 15 miles west of Birmingham. The meeting house is located to the north-west edge of the town centre in Scotts Road, a residential cul-de-sac. The properties along this road are predominately inter-war, characterised by semi-detached properties with hipped roofs and small front gardens. To the west of the meeting house is a former school built in the nineteenth century. Originally there were once two schools along this road formerly known as Wollaston Road, the open land on Scotts Road is the site of one of the schools now demolished. The school that still stands was later in use as an institute and then a Brotherhood Hall, it is now unoccupied and is deteriorating, creating a negative impact on the townscape. To the east of the meeting house is the busy main road, Bath Road.

The meeting house is bounded by modern metal fencing to part of the north elevation, whilst the rest of the boundary has a red brick wall, with arched

entrance into the burial ground to the north. The grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which add to the mature landscaped character of the area. A ginkgo tree was planted in 1998 by Revd B.G. Crowley, a descendent of Ambrose Crowley, to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the meeting house.

## Listed status

The meeting house is listed grade II which is considered appropriate. The list entry would benefit from being revised. The description notes that the building was formerly a smithy before being adapted in 1968 as a chapel; this is incorrect. The land on which the present meeting house stands was leased by Ambrose Crowley, whose occupation was an ironmonger. A document of 1689 refers to a 'newly erected edifice' on the site, indicating that it was a purpose-built meeting house.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The archaeological potential of the site is considered to be low, as no former building is recorded on site prior to the construction of the present meeting house. The building has archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** insulation of internal walls in the children's room, new efficient boilers and energy efficient light bulbs.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.

## Access

A Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken,

although Friends have considered undertaking a formal audit in the past. There is level access into the meeting house. Whilst there is level access throughout the main body of the meeting house there are three steps to the children's room, but to accommodate users there is a grab rail and a portable ramp can be used if required. Friends have undertaken improvement works to upgrade the WC facilities to become fully compliant with the Equality Act and these can now be accessed from the ground floor. A hearing loop has been installed but there are currently no facilities to assist the partially sighted.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately six hours and community use for 15 hours each week. The meeting house has the potential to be let for 72 hours each week. (three meeting rooms). There are two rooms which can be hired separately or in combination (the main meeting room and children's room). The common room contains the communal kitchen which can be used by all hirers. There is a lettings policy. The following activities are prohibited at the meeting house; the use of tobacco or other smoking materials, alcohol and gambling. The meeting house may not be used for commercial purposes. There is a lettings policy. The meeting house is not let to political parties. The meeting house is available free for Local Meeting committees or events organised by the Local Meeting. The meeting house is popular for lettings due its peaceful location and is good value for money.

## Information sources

David M. Butler, *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp. 700-701.

Stourbridge Quaker Meeting House, *Overview History*, Leaflet.

Stourbridge Quaker Meeting House, *Visitor Information*.

Enid Carpenter, *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

# Sutton Coldfield



**Friends Meeting House**  
Kenelm Road  
Sutton Coldfield  
B73 6HD

○ SP 11807 95852

**The building has medium heritage significance as a purpose-built inter-war meeting house designed by the Quaker architect Hubert Lidbetter.**

## Evidential value

---

This is a purpose-built structure of 1939, and is not on a site of a former meeting house. It is of low evidential value.

## Historical value

---

The meeting house has medium historical value, as a relatively recent building typical of the small and plain meeting houses designed by Hubert Lidbetter in the twentieth century. It has strong associative value with the architect.

## Aesthetic value

---

The meeting house is modest and small-scale and like most Quaker meeting houses, is a building of simplicity. The building is well-designed and in its use of materials typical for the period. It has medium aesthetic value.

## Communal value

---

The building's primary use is as a Quaker meeting house but is also used by a number of community groups. The meeting house has high communal value.

## Historical background

PRIOR TO THE First World War Friends in the Sutton Coldfield area would travel further afield to attend worship, notably to Bull Street meeting house. During the war Friends found it difficult to travel and instead met at each other's houses. By 1926, meetings were being held in the Assembly Room in Sutton Coldfield and then in 1929 meetings were held in the grounds of Oakhurst within 'The House of Friendship'.

BY THE 1930S, Friends wanted to reach communities across a wider area and decided to hold meetings in Kingstanding, on a temporary basis. By 1937, Friends began the search for a suitable piece of land in order to build a meeting house. Kenelm Road was chosen and the new meeting house was built to the designs of Hubert Lidbetter and opened in 1939.

In 1990, when Butler visited, the entrance was accessed by a series of steps which have since been replaced by a gently sloping ramp to provide better access into the building. The plan form of the building and usages within the building have been much altered since Butler's conjectural plan was drawn. The linear ancillary range to the north; the doorway from the library to the rear exit lobby is incorrectly positioned. The room which was formerly a classroom is now in use as a library and the kitchen is lit by two windows not one. The internal wall from the main lobby area to the kitchen is flush. The children's and young persons' room within the ancillary range to the north is lit by two windows (not annotated on Butler's plan), and toilet facilities are provided in the south projecting bay. The classroom located underneath the main meeting room is now in use as a furniture >

# Sutton Coldfield

---

store and garden store. Finally, it has been suggested by Butler (1999) that whilst a classroom was built to the north of the meeting house provision was made for future expansion to the south with a doorway provided for this purpose. This opening has now been infilled and there are no future plans for an extension. The meeting house underwent a scheme of repair in 1985-6.

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The meeting house was built in 1939, to designs by Hurbert Lidbetter. The materials are brown brick laid in both stretcher and English bond, with a concrete tiled hipped roof. The meeting house is aligned northwest to southeast, and the plan consists of the main hall behind the entrance lobby which is flanked by low pavilions, with a linear ancillary block to the northeast. Due to the fall in the ground level the building provides single storey accommodation to the west and is two-storey to the east. The main entrance is to the north-west (for clarity in the report this will be referred to as the west). The west symmetrical elevation towards the private road has a recessed porch between projecting pavilions; the central double entrance doors are in a concrete surround, engraved with the lettering 'SOCIETY OF FRIENDS'. The north and south projecting bays are flat-roofed and each have two 1-light windows (all windows indicated in this description are of uPVC). The main body of the meeting house has windows to the south side, this elevation also contains an opening, now infilled, which Butler (1999) describes as being a doorway for a potential extension, now infilled and there are no plans for an extension. Solar photovoltaic panels are located on the south facing roof slope. To the north a linear range parallel to the hall provides a children's and young persons' room, kitchen and library. To the end of this range is a rear exit lobby accessed via a set of steps. The main body of the meeting house has two small 1-light horizontal windows. To the south of this elevation is a doorway which gives access to the furniture store (located underneath the meeting room). The rear east elevation of the hall has three windows, and at basement level a timber planked door to the garden store, with a 2-light and 1-light window to the furniture store.

The main meeting room, children's room, and ancillary facilities are accessed via a pleasant well-lit lobby area. The lobby is plastered, walls painted white, with parquet flooring. The interior of the main meeting room is rectangular in shape, with timber floorboards aligned north to south. The walls are covered in timber panels to dado height and the canted tiled ceiling has six pendant drop lights. To the north-east is a rear exit from the meeting room which also provides access to the library.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

Sutton Coldfield lies eight miles north of Birmingham city centre. The meeting house is located in Kenelm Road, a private road with grass verges lined with residential properties and a Spiritualist Church on the south side and the railway tracks to the west. To the north of Kenelm Road are two modern apartment blocks. The grounds of the meeting house to the southeast are well planted with shrubs, and mature trees screen buildings located on Caversham Place. A modest area for car parking is located along the frontage of the meeting house.

## Listed status

Not listed. Whilst not considered to be a candidate for listing the meeting house has strong associations with the renowned Quaker architect Hubert Lidbetter and could be a suitable candidate for a local list.

## Archaeological potential of the site

The Birmingham Historic Environment Record was consulted and no records have been identified for the site. The site is likely to be of low archaeological potential.

## Sustainability

A major building project was undertaken in 2016 to improve energy efficiency of the meeting house

and this and other steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** insulation for underfloor, internal walls in the Hall, and in roof space; external cavity wall filling; replacement double-glazed windows throughout; air-to-water heat pump and comprehensive new heating system, with new individually thermostat-controlled radiators throughout; solar photovoltaic roof panels.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** the meeting house uses the local authority recycling scheme.
- **Building maintenance and refurbishment:** isolated repointing of brickwork joints; ridge-tile repointing
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** lower lawn changed to meadow, with some wild flower planting to produce pollen to encourage honeybees and butterflies; windfall from surrounding trees left to encourage insect population and thus bird life. Most of the trees are safeguarded by Tree Preservation Orders.
- **Transport:** lockable bicycle racks installed to encourage Friends to cycle to the meeting house and to leave cars at home.

## Access

A formal Disability Access Audit has not been undertaken. The meeting, however, is considering the recommendations made in the quinquennial inspection carried out in March 2015 by Barnsley Bate (chartered building surveyors). This identified that the meeting house is accessible in terms of ramps for access to the front of the building and circulation within the premises, but the rear fire exit route is not accessible for non-ambulant persons. The inspection report recommends that consideration is given to a ramp or other action to improve escape routes for non-ambulant persons. A demarcated parking space for those with disabilities should be provided

adjacent to the front of the premises if possible. The meeting is aware that further work is required at the meeting house to ensure compliance with Equality Act. The meeting house does not have a hearing loop but does have a Sound Field Amplification system with two hand-held microphones. Facilities for the partially-sighted include bold clear signage and plans are in hand for stair nosings in a contrasting colour.

## Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately 12 hours and in community use for 23 hours each week. Possible use is 80 hours per week. There is a lettings policy; Quakers encourage the use of their meeting houses in ways which serve and benefit the local community. If there are any doubts regarding prospective tenant suitability this will be addressed at the monthly Local Business Meeting. The Friends have no precedent for tenants using the meeting house for free and have not received such requests. The meeting house is popular for lettings due to its location on the edge of the town centre, and is within a quiet cul-de-sac, which is also a private road. The environment is quiet but convenient. The meeting house has adequate car parking areas & bicycle racks immediately in front of the building. It is well-served by public transport. Internally the building is all on one floor level, and accessed by a gentle external ramp to the front door. The current letting charge (an 'all-in' charge, with use of the kitchen etc.) compares very favourably with other similar premises in the local area.

## Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp.646.

Ian Taylor, *Local Meeting Survey*, October 2015.

Unknown, *The Religious Society of Friends in Sutton Coldfield*.

# Warwick



**Friends Meeting House**  
39 High Street  
Warwick  
CV34 4AX

○ SP 28071 64737

**Warwick meeting house has exceptional heritage significance as a fine example of a purpose-built meeting house erected in 1695, to replace an earlier seventeenth century building damaged by fire on the same site. The interior of the meeting house was altered in the eighteenth century and retains its gallery and fireplace of this date.**

### Evidential value

---

The meeting house was built in 1695 and was enlarged in the eighteenth century by the addition of a cottage to the north-west and more recently in 1992. The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record identified the remains of a medieval or post medieval well. The fabric of the building and site have the potential to yield evidence about past patterns of Quaker life and worship. The building and site have high evidential value.

### Historical value

---

Quakerism has a long history in this area. The building has high historical significance as a purpose-built meeting house replacing an earlier seventeenth century meeting house destroyed in the fire of 1694. The meeting house retains its historic layout, as well as a number of features dating from the eighteenth century, including the gallery and fireplace. The meeting house and burial ground have high historical value.

### Historical background

THE BEGINNINGS OF Quakerism in Warwick coincide with George Fox's visits in 1655 and 1656. By 1671, a piece of land had been purchased on High Pavement, for a Quaker burial ground. A dwelling was located on the site which was used as a meeting house until it was destroyed in the fire of 1694, which destroyed much of Warwick.

The present meeting house was built on the same site in 1695 at a cost of £116. Butler (1999) notes that internal changes had taken place by 1710 including the removal of the elders' stand which was once located to the north east. At a date unknown, presumably during the late eighteenth century, a gallery was built along with a fireplace; the entrance into the meeting house at this time was to the south

### Aesthetic value

---

The form and design of the building is typical of late seventeenth century vernacular architecture in this area, constructed in local materials. The attractive setting of the grounds to the south adds to its aesthetic significance. The exterior, interior spaces and the simplicity of the historic fittings have exceptional aesthetic value. The eighteenth century cottage is of high heritage value whilst the latest addition to the west has been sympathetically designed and has not spoilt the aesthetic value of the whole.

### Communal value

---

The meeting house has high communal value, it provides a local community focus with an onsite Quaker Community Café and its facilities are used by local groups.

east. In the eighteenth century a dwelling was built adjoining the north-west elevation of the meeting house.

Following a decline in membership numbers the meeting closed in 1909 for 40 years until it opened again in 1949. During the 1950s the meeting house was restored with repairs to the windows, woodwork and walls. By 1972, additional space was required by the Friends which was provided by creating a children's room and kitchen in the eighteenth century cottage at a cost of £3,000. In 1992, at a cost of £130,000 a three storey building was built to the designs of Donald James and Partners to the west, to provide additional ancillary facilities at ground level and office accommodation above. >

## The building and its principal fittings and fixtures

The present meeting house was built in three phases. The original meeting house was built in 1695. It is rectangular in plan and built of red brick laid in Flemish bond, with stone quoins, stone plinth, a pitched roof covered in clay tiles and a semi-circular stone well to the south west. Entrance to the south west is via a pair of six-panel timber doors with a flat timber canopy; to the right are two tall transomed and mullioned timber casements to the meeting room, and smaller rectangular leaded lights to the gallery and space below.

The south east gable has a central glazed door with a transomed and mullioned window above, with segmental brick head. The north east has a plain elevation obscured by vegetation. Adjoining the north-west elevation is the eighteenth century range: the south west elevation is two storey with three 12-pane sash windows at ground level, and a small two light leaded window and two gabled dormers with small sashes to first floor. Facing Hill Street the eighteenth century range has an entrance reached by a series of stone steps, with a plain canopy, a 16-pane sash window at ground floor with two 12-pane sashes above and a dormer. To the west is the 1992 range; the Hill Street elevation is built of modern red brick, with three 12 pane sliding sash windows at ground and first floor and to the east a lower section with a dormer window. To the west is a red brick archway with stone dressings leading to a passage, providing access into the 1992 range and to the meeting house.

Internally, access to the meeting house is to the south west leading into an internal porch and then the rear of the meeting room. The walls are lined with tongue and groove panelling to dado height, with the walls plainly painted and plastered. A fire place is located within the east wall. The main body of the meeting room is three-bay, with two roof trusses partially obscured by the ceiling, and the floor is parquet. The meeting room is well lit from the south east and south west. The gallery is to the north-west. Access to the common room, library, WC facilities and community café is available from the doorway on the north-west wall of the meeting room.

## Attached burial ground

The burial ground is to the rear (south-east) of the meeting house but is no longer used for burials. The date range of the burials is 1660-1912 for which the records are held at Bull Street meeting house, Birmingham.

Only two headstones remain and these do not pre-date 1750. Buried in the burial ground is William Dewsbury (1621-1688), who met George Fox in 1651 and by the following year became a Quaker minister travelling through Lancashire and Cumberland.

## The meeting house in its wider setting

The meeting house has a central position within Warwick along High Street, located within the historic core of Warwick Conservation Area. A large area of Warwick was destroyed by fire in the late seventeenth century and following this the rebuilding resulted in the townscape which is seen today, characterised by brick and stone, with a mix of classical style buildings. High Street and Jury Street are the main streets in the area with Northgate crossing through the middle.

High Street has a number of listed buildings including the Grade I listed St James Chapel West Gate, opposite the meeting house is the Hospital of Robert Dudley Earl of Leicester, an attractive heavy timber framed building listed Grade I; the site of this is also included in the Register of Historic Parks and Gardens. The majority of the buildings to the east of the meeting house, on both sides of Hill Street are listed Grade II.

To the rear of the meeting house to the south east and south west, the brick boundary wall and surrounding garden create an attractive enclosed green space which makes a positive contribution to the surrounding area. The grounds are well planted with trees and shrubs which add to the mature landscaped character of the area. The boundary trees restrict views to the meeting house from Castle Lane.

### Listed status

The building is properly listed at II\*. The list entry makes no mention of the late twentieth century addition.

### Archaeological potential of the site

The Warwickshire Historic Environment Record was consulted and records indicate the original meeting house was destroyed in the fire of 1694 and the present meeting house was built on the same site. Records also reveal the remains of a medieval or post medieval well; the site is therefore likely to be of medium archaeological potential.

### Sustainability

Steps taken to improve the sustainability and reduce the environmental impact of the meeting include:

- **Climate change and energy efficiency:** the meeting has a sustainability group.
- **Resource use, recycling and waste management:** local authority recycling scheme used.
- **Building maintenance and refurbishment:** under ongoing review.
- **Wildlife, ecology and nature conservation:** the grounds are planted with trees and shrubs which provide wildlife habitats.
- **Transport:** located on local transport routes.

### Access

A Disability Access Audit was undertaken in 2000. Following the audit the following actions were taken: level access, hearing loop and contrasting nosings installed. Access into the main meeting room can be achieved via the eighteenth century building facing Hill Street which adjoins the main meeting room or

through a passageway to the west of which leads to the rear of the properties, allowing level access. The ground floor is fully accessible, with accessible toilet facilities. There is restricted access to the gallery and within the 1992 extension, circulation to the upper floors is restricted (this is privately let).

### Community use

The meeting house is used by Friends for approximately three hours per week and community use for approximately 50 hours each week; it has the potential to be let for a total of 234 hours each week. There are four rooms available; the main meeting room which can accommodate 75 people, the common room for 30, library for 12 and when the community café is not in use this is available to seat 30 people. The Warwick Quaker Community Café is open weekdays between 10am and 2pm and on Saturdays between 10am and 1pm. There is a lettings policy. The meeting house is not let for public meetings, political parties or commercial groups. There is a minimum hire period of three hours. The building may be used for free for Quaker events. The meeting house is popular due its good facilities and the reasonable cost

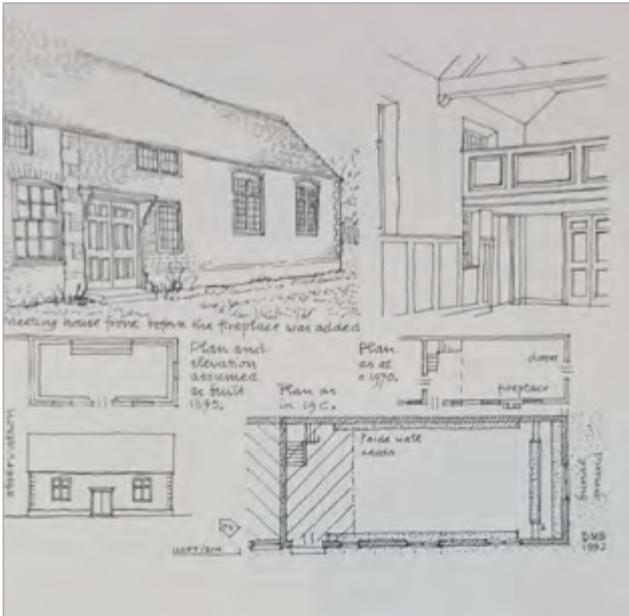
### Information sources

Butler, D.M., *The Quaker Meeting Houses of Britain* (London: Friends Historical Society, 1999), vol. II, pp.647.

Edward Creasy, *Local Meeting Survey*, September 2015.

# Warwick

---



Ground floor plan as reconstructed by Butler (Butler (1999), vol. 2, p.647)

---



Main meeting room from gallery

---



View from north

---

# Central England Quakers in 2017

## Working for a Better World

Quakers' religious experience leads them to place a special value on truth, equality, simplicity and peace. These testimonies, as they are known, are lived rather than written. They lead Quakers to translate their faith into action by working locally and globally for social justice, to support peacemakers and care for the environment.

## Work

Central England Quakers also put faith into action by appointing people to join committees: these meet regularly to organise work and help Quakers in Central England live out their faith. Some examples are:

### Christmas Parcels Appeal

Christmas can be a difficult time for families of people in prison, asylum seekers and refugees, and other vulnerable people. The Christmas parcels appeal seeks to offer support and friendship at this time by providing food parcels.

### Community Justice Group

'Community Justice' means being concerned for all our neighbours, especially the more vulnerable and ostracised to ensure Justice for all, not just the mighty.

### Low Carbon Commitment Forum

In 2011, Quakers in Britain made a commitment to become a low carbon community. The Central England Quakers Low Carbon Commitment Forum meets three times a year to coordinate and support local meetings' sustainability work.

### Peace Committee

Quakers take a clear stand for peace and against military action. Peace Committee supports Quakers in Central England to put our peace testimony into practice.

## Projects

Central England Quakers have established several professionally-run organisations to help carry out their work in the world, including:

### Peacemakers

Peacemakers educates for peace. Its highly experienced trainers work with both school staff and pupils to develop skills, knowledge, behaviour and systems that develop peaceful learning environments.

### Northfield Ecocentre

Set in the urban heart of Northfield, the Ecocentre offers practical and inspiring ideas and advice on how to green up your lifestyle, home or business, whatever the size and budget.

### The Hope Project

The Hope Project is an agency offering consultancy and training in peace building skills and the creative handling of conflict. In Belarus, Ukraine, and Uganda, we helped to introduce and develop peace education in schools.

### Peace Hub

The Peace Hub is a friendly, shop-style space, focussed on peace and justice where people can drop in and take an action. >

## Quaker worship

Quakers share a way of life rather than a set of beliefs. They seek to experience God directly, within ourselves and in our relationships with others and the world around us. These direct encounters with the Divine, in meeting for worship and elsewhere, are where Quakers find meaning and purpose.

Central England Quakers meet together for worship and other activities in local meetings and smaller worshipping groups. These are inclusive and open to all. In our worship we hope to find acceptance, support, challenge, practical help and a sense of belonging. Our sense of community does not depend on professing identical beliefs, but from worshipping, sharing and working together.



Meeting for Worship at Coventry Quaker meeting house

### Leadership

Quakers do not have priests, or a hierarchy, as we believe all people can have a direct relationship with God. All Quakers are entitled to participate in decision-making processes and to help run the Society. Those with specific roles are asked to serve for limited periods of time, after which others take their turn to serve.

### Quakers and Christianity

The Quaker way has its roots in Christianity, and finds inspiration in the Bible and the life and teachings of Jesus. Quakers also find meaning and value in the teachings of other faiths and acknowledge that ours is not the only way.

Source: *Central England Quakers website*

## Times and places of Meetings for Worship

### Barnt Green & Redditch

**Sunday 10.30**

6 Sandhills Road, Barnt Green,  
B45 8NR  
barntgreenredditch@quaker.org.uk

### Bournville

**Sunday 10.30**

65 Linden Road, Bournville, B30 1JT  
bournville@quaker.org.uk

### Bull Street

**Sunday 10.30 | Wednesday 12.45**

(Birmingham City Centre),  
40 Bull Street, B4 6AF  
bullstreet@quaker.org.uk

### Cotteridge

**Sunday 10.30**

23a Watford Road, Cotteridge,  
B30 1JB  
cotteridge@quaker.org.uk

### Coventry

**Sunday 10.30 | Wednesday 12.30**

Hill Street, Coventry, CV1 4AN  
coventry@quaker.org.uk

### Edgbaston

**Sunday 11.00**

St James Road, B15 1JP  
edgbaston@quaker.org.uk

### Hall Green

**Sunday 10.45**

1 Hamlet Road, B28 9BG  
hallgreen@quaker.org.uk

### Hartshill

**Sunday 10.30 | Sunday 18.00**

*Evening is a programmed meeting*  
112 Castle Rd, Hartshill, Nuneaton,  
CV10 0SG  
hartshill@quaker.org.uk

### Kings Heath

**Sunday 10.45**

17 Colmore Road, Kings Heath,  
B14 7PE

### Northfield

**Sunday 18.00**

*Only on the last Sunday of the month*  
Church Road, Northfield, B31 2LB

### Moseley

**Thursday 18.30**

*Only on the first and third Thursday  
of the month*

The Corner Hall, St Columba's URC,  
Chantry Road, Moseley, B13 8DD

### Penn (Wolverhampton)

**Sunday 10.30**

The Woodlands, 434 Penn Road,  
WV4 4DH  
penn@quaker.org.uk

### Selly Oak

**Sunday 10.30**

930 Bristol Road, Selly Oak, B29 6NB  
sellyoak@quaker.org.uk

### Solihull

**Sunday 10.15**

Solihull Women's Institute,  
745 Warwick Road, Solihull, B91 3DG

### Stourbridge

**Sunday 10.00**

Scotts Road, Stourbridge, DY8 1UR  
stourbridge@quaker.org.uk

### Sutton Coldfield

**Sunday 10.30**

Kenelm Road, Sutton Coldfield,  
B73 6HD  
suttoncoldfield@quaker.org.uk

### Walsall

**Sunday 11.00**

Deaf People's Centre,  
59a Lichfield Road, WS4 2BX  
walsall@quaker.org.uk

### West Bromwich

**Monday 19.00**

*Only on the first and third Mondays  
of the month*

Wesley Methodist Church,  
High Street, B70 8ND

### Warwick

**Sunday 10.30**

Quaker Centre, 39 High Street,  
Warwick, CV34 4AX  
warwick@quaker.org.uk

### Leamington Spa

**Wednesday 12.30**

Dormer Conference Centre,  
Dormer Place, CV32 5AA



Central England  
Quakers

Central England Quakers comprises sixteen local Quaker meetings. As well as being a worshipping community, Central England Quakers is a registered charity that oversees business matters, including properties.



Britain Yearly  
Meeting

Britain Yearly Meeting is the central organisation that supports and works on behalf of all Quakers in Britain.



Historic England

Historic England is the public body that looks after England's historic environment. It champions historic places, helping people understand, value and care for them.

**AHP** Architectural  
History  
Practice

AHP is a research-based heritage consultancy specialising in advice on listed buildings and historic places.

---

## Contact Us

**Central England Quakers** 40 Bull Street, Birmingham, B4 6AF  
0121 236 2644 | [ceqam@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ceqam@quaker.org.uk) | [centralenglandquakers.org.uk](http://centralenglandquakers.org.uk)

The Central England Area Quaker Meeting Charities, registered charity number 224571.

