



CENTRAL ENGLAND AREA QUAKER MEETING

Recruitment of Meeting House Manager for Cotteridge Quaker Meeting House January 2025

Background to the post

Cotteridge

Cotteridge is a socially mixed suburb of Birmingham bordering on Bournville, Kings Norton and Stirchley. It has excellent transport links, being served by several bus routes and trains to the city centre. Its main focus is a busy local shopping area centred around a double roundabout where the Cotteridge Church (a local Anglican/Methodist ecumenical partnership) is situated.

Cotteridge Quaker Meeting

We are one of the largest Local Meetings in Central England Area Quaker Meeting (CEAQM), which is itself one of the largest Area Meetings in Britain Yearly Meeting. CEAQM comprises 14 Local Meetings and a number of social witness projects. We have a total of about 90 adult and child members and attenders associated with the Meeting, with around 25 at worship on any given Sunday morning. We have an active children's meeting for primary school ages and below which meets most Sundays during term times. We hold frequent meetings for learning, monthly coffee mornings and shared lunches, and there are a number of 'spiritual journey' groups which meet in people's homes.

In addition to local and national Quaker work, the meeting supports the Project (formerly South Birmingham Young Homeless), the B30 Food Bank, Hope House, and Churches Together in B30.

The meeting house

In the 1960s the original meeting house (built by George Cadbury in 1901) was demolished and the site re-developed, with shops and flats above them on the street-front and the meeting house and a separate bungalow set back behind them. The bungalow originally accommodated resident wardens.

The Meeting has a particular concern for sustainability and in recent years we have done a lot of work to 'green' our buildings and our behaviour. This has included installation of solar panels, insulation, new double glazing, energy-saving measures and the re-design of the rear garden to create a Quiet Garden. The garden is maintained by a professional gardener.

We have succeeded in reducing fossil fuel usage in the building by 90% since 2004. We actively work to foster environmental responsibility among our members and the users of our building, and recognise our Meeting House Manager has a part to play in this.

We view our building as both a community resource and a form of Quaker outreach to the community. The 'classroom' of the meeting house is used Monday – Friday in term-time

by a nursery school. Other regular hirers include local teachers of yoga, Pilates and Zumba, various craft, music, dance and drama groups and the W.I. The Meeting House Manager is central to building and maintaining good relationships with all users of our building, tenants of the bungalow and our neighbours.

The bungalow

The bungalow is on one side of the site, sharing access from the street with the main meeting house. The property is independently occupied. There are gates at the entrance to the whole site, which are locked for security overnight.

Employment and Line management

Central England Area Quaker Meeting is the employing body, although supervision of the post is devolved to Cotteridge Meeting, through the Clerk to the Premises and Finance Committee. The meeting works to the employment policies and practices set by the trustees.

The Meeting House Manager works in close liaison with the meeting's Premises Committee and provides update reports for the committee which meets about every two months. They should bring to the committee's attention any matters such as larger maintenance needs.