26.60 Quakers in London (QiL) – a single London Area Meeting

At previous meetings we have considered whether Kingston & Wandsworth Area Meeting should transfer and become a part of the single London Area Meeting to be known as QiL (Quakers in London (QiL) from 1 January 2027.

Some historical context may be helpful. KWAM, formerly KWMM, came into existence in 1982, before that Kingston MM formed Kingston, Esher, Mitcham, Wimbledon, Wandsworth, Sutton, Streatham and Purley Meetings.

In essence the question today Is whether KWAM is led to join the single London AM, to be known as QiL (Quakers in London) from January 2027 or are we led not to, so we would remain a separate AM when the other six London AMs join together?

At our last Area Meeting in May we agreed on the formation of a “cluster” arrangement for the 5 Local Meetings within KWAM if we transferred to QiL.

At our last AM in May we minuted “….a main area of concern relates to the finances. David Holtam (AM Collector) and Mike Stanger (AM Treasurer) will provide more details about the finances at July Area Meeting and hope to bring in proposals that would allow some existing KWAM funds to remain available to support cluster activities following the formal commencement of QiL from January 2027”

Mike Stanger and David Holtam have now prepared 2 papers, both attached to the draft agenda. Mike’s paper covers the following:

A summary of how the finances will work in the pan-London world

A look at the finances of Quakers in London (QiL) as a whole

Appendix A – more detail about Local Meeting (LM) finances

Appendix B – tasks and steps to be taken by LMs before the merger

Appendix C – KWAM tasks to be completed after the merger page 9

Appendix D – fund balances at the end of 2025

The second paper covers proposals for a Cluster of the five Local Meetings that currently constitute KWAM.

We support the proposals contained in the papers for managing the three Area Meeting designated funds (Geoffrey Weeden Legacy, Tony Hall Legacy and Leslie Todd Income). In summary, these funds will be included in the merger, but they will remain in the existing bank accounts until the funds have been spent, and they will perhaps be managed by means of a "Cluster" arrangement.

We hope that the Hilda Gant Fund can be dealt with in a way which will allow its administration to continue as now.

We understand from the minutes of the LDG meeting held on 4 July (minute 43/2026) that the LDG finance sub-group will liaise with us to facilitate these arrangements.

We note that Kingston, Wimbledon and Esher have chosen option 1 regarding their finances, Richmond has chosen option 2b, and Wandsworth option 2a.

Following these further clarifications and proposals, we confirm that we would like to merge with the other London Area Meetings and become part of QiL. We appreciate that there is more work to be done regarding this transfer in January 2027; having made the decision to join, we will be able to address the various issues raised going forward in a positive and joyful spirit.

We also confirm that we would like to form a Cluster comprising the five Local Meetings that are currently constituent meetings of our Area Meeting. We thank Mike Stanger for the paper on clusters, which will provide a useful reference point for future discussions on the practicalities of the operation of the Cluster at September Area Meeting.

We are clear that our AM will not need to meet after the end of 2026. All financial and legal matters after that can be dealt with by AM Trustees. Our Trustees will need to remain in operation until the Annual Report and Accounts for 2026 have been approved by them and we ask our AM Nominations Committee to bring forward names, including the name of a trustee willing to serve as clerk, for this period.