

For Quakers, faith is about the whole of life. It is something to be 'lived out'. They seek, in their own lives and with others, to build a fairer, more truthful and more peaceful world. Throughout their history Quakers have worked to build peace within hearts and lives, within families and communities, and between groups and nations. They continue to do this today. They recognise the preciousness and value of every life. This compels them to find ways of building peace, even in the darkest and most difficult of times and places.

We asked four Quakers to share their story with us and to tell us about their experience of Quaker community, living, faith and worship.

Find out more:

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QUAKER LIVING

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Jenn

I do believe that striving to live well is worth the effort. And this is what my faith is: it is about trying to live deeply and well. I feel that all our living is an act of faith and trust. I especially feel this as a parent. It is trusting that the best we can do is to live lovingly and faithfully. I believe deeply that it is about what I think of as a tendency to life. I see this in the universe and I see it in others.

My faith is the starting point for all that I do; responding to that of God, seeking a shared space and a sense of connectedness. Out of this grows the possibility of peace, our working for peace and our cherishing of all that is life-giving.

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Kevin

As a family – we have three young children – we try our best to live simply, to do our best to care for our planet and our environment. We try to raise our children to appreciate the importance of acceptance and compassion and to value the stillness of Quaker worship. Being a Quaker helps me to look beyond myself, to think of others and to try to share with them some of the strength and inspiration I have found. I still view myself as learning, still discovering; understanding my Quaker faith more deeply and living it more fully and faithfully.

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Jon

The Quakers I know are deeply involved in a whole range of things. One is economic justice, which is a big part of our life as a community. Also, with other Quakers, I have been involved in supporting a local homeless shelter. It was an eye-opening experience, but being rooted in a Quaker community and in Quaker worship gave me the strength and inspiration to do this.

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Abi

Working “where my gladness and the world’s hunger meet” might have been impossible for me. My parents had a fixed idea of how men and women should be, knew they did not fit it and were terrified of others finding out. This messed me up. Then all my pretence fell away and I found Quakers. My work in the world, my witness to others, is learning to know and accept myself as God made me, moving from suppressing my feelings to owning them. I develop my creativity and expression in writing and speaking to model love and acceptance in the wider world. I know the truth is setting me free, and I seek to free others.

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See our four Quaker journeys in full at
www.quaker.org.uk/Journeys

