



# Friends World News

The Bulletin of the Friends  
World Committee for Consultation  
*Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)*

[fwcc.world](http://fwcc.world)

FWCC

2018

Vol. 1

No. 186

## About the Friends World Committee for Consultation

The purpose of the Friends World Committee for Consultation is to encourage fellowship among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. The Quaker community circles the globe, spanning a rich diversity of regional cultures, beliefs and styles of worship. FWCC programs unite Friends around the world through Spirit-led fellowship.

Our work with the Quaker United Nations Offices, both by appointing members to their governing committees and by providing consultative status, offers a means to engage Quakers in world affairs. Our consultation extends to those of other faiths through work with the World Council of Churches and Christian World Communions.

### Our Mission

Answering God's call to universal love, FWCC brings Friends of varying traditions and cultural experiences together in worship, communications, and consultation, to express our common heritage and our Quaker message to the world. (Approved 2006)

### History

In 1937, after years of concerned work to reconnect a fragmented Quaker world, the Second World Conference of Friends created the FWCC "to act in a consultative capacity to promote better understanding among Friends the world over." Today, Friends from yearly meetings and groups in 75 nations continue this work. Around the world there are four cooperating, autonomous FWCC Sections serving Africa, the Americas, Asia and the West Pacific, and Europe and the Middle East. FWCC's World Office is in London.

### FWCC World Office

The world office is based at Friends House in London, England. It serves four main roles:

- Organise world gatherings, including triennial meetings and consultations of Quakers world-wide.
- Support and maintain contact with the work of the four FWCC sections and the Quaker United Nations Offices.
- Coordinate the International Membership programme, which joins isolated Friends and worship groups to the wider Quaker community.
- Promote an understanding of the world-wide character of the Society of Friends, through conferences, staff travel, correspondence and publications, and through ecumenical and interfaith work on behalf of Friends.

Further information about FWCC and its activities can be obtained from the World Office or the Section Offices, whose addresses are on the back cover of Friends World News. Contributions to the work of FWCC are always welcome and can be sent to any of the offices.

### Friends World News

Friends World News, the bulletin of FWCC, is published twice yearly. If you wish to receive a personal copy, please contact the World Office (or the Section of the Americas if you live in North America). There is no set subscription fee, but a donation would be welcome. Please send to the World Office anything you would like considered for publication in Friends World News – articles, letters, news, photographs and other illustrations, about the activities and religious witness of Friends. All materials received will be acknowledged although the editor cannot make any commitment to publish. Please say if you wish photographs or other materials to be returned.

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Cover photograph: Singing in Kamenge Church, Burundi. Photograph by Gretchen Castle.

Thank you for your donations to FWCC, past, present and future.

- Together we are building a strong and vital Religious Society of Friends.
- Together we are strengthening the worldwide network of Friends.
- Together we are bringing our Quaker message to the world.

Please give generously to support the world family of Friends.

Please consider FWCC in your will.

For more about FWCC please visit our website:

[fwcc.world](http://fwcc.world)

# Greetings to Friends everywhere . . .

And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.

— Micah 6:8

Simple enough. It is no surprise that this verse is a favourite for many Friends. The three instructions hold great appeal for living a full and gracious life . . . our challenge lies in what we cannot see about ourselves, the log in our own eyes!

FWCC brings Friends together, we encourage listening and learning, we expand our own small worlds when we engage with an abundant, loving God. And in doing so, we have much baggage to let go of. We need God's help in letting go of what we have known, or been unaware of, in order to 'let come' a greater inclusivity! According to N. Gordon Cosby in *Seized by the Power of a Great Affection*, God is invitational:

Be with me. I will not abandon or forsake you. Leave your privilege. Leave the systems that reward you for not being faithful to my way. Create a new system — be in true covenant with me. Lose your life to really live.

FWCC serves as a convening power among Friends worldwide. FWCC invites all Friends to address issues of inequality and privilege. As this conversation grows in many organizations and in many parts of the world, FWCC is inviting Friends to engage in the dialogue and to explore the ways in which we want to be together in the world. We learn from each other whenever we are together, when we work together across different continents, and when we are aware of how historical injustices and current inequalities can affect our interactions. As we are equal before God, we want to be conscious of how we are together, to acknowledge our human challenges, to welcome one another in love, and to celebrate each of us as a gift from God.

As we learn and re-learn how to walk humbly with our God and respect all of God's creation, let us come together in this as Quakers. Let us open up a living dialogue about how we want to be treated. Let us express our vision for a loving world. Let us live into this vision. Let us be God-infused and God-enthused!

Former general secretary of the Reformed Churches of America, Wes Granberg-Michaelson writes:

The necessary detachment from this ugly and injurious present political climate depends upon our inner attachment to the mystery of God's unbounded grace and divine, creative love.

Let us be attached to the Mystery as we celebrate the diversity among Friends, a diversity of culture, language, and theological expression. It is not easy and challenges

us all, yet the beauty of difference reminds us that God has created each of us as uniquely as a blade of grass. As God loves us, how can we not love one another? Let us act justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with our God.

*In loving Friendship,*



Gretchen Castle

GENERAL SECRETARY, FWCC WORLD OFFICE



## Thank you on behalf of Rwandan Friends and FWCC

Friends World Committee for Consultation and Rwandan Friends are very grateful for the generosity of Friends who contributed to the successful campaign earlier this

year to help Rwanda Yearly Meeting address an urgent need to install lightning rods on 35 buildings (at around £400 each) following several fatal lightning strikes affecting churches, schools and other buildings.

Thanks to the generosity of Friends around the world, the goal of £14,000 was reached, including funds raised by the Africa Section and those collected by the Section of the Americas, Europe and Middle East, and Asia West Pacific.

With the assistance Friends from around the world have given, Rwandan Friends have been able to meet new government safety requirements, keep buildings in use, and continue to meet as Friends in safety in churches, schools, and the Friends Peace House in Kigali (pictured).

# FWCC Sustainability Communications Officer

FWCC's sustainability communications officer Susanna Mattingly has been working with Friends around the world to strengthen our environmental commitment and gather a collective Quaker voice on sustainability.

Sustainability, in the broadest sense means concerns around the environment, depletion of natural resources and climate change, but it also includes our concerns for peace, human rights and economic justice, as these are closely interconnected issues.



Susanna Mattingly  
FWCC Sustainability Communications Officer

We can all strengthen and amplify the Quaker sustainability movement in different ways. Lots of small changes will make a big difference. The time to act is now – not in fear, not through accusation, but with hope and love. Every action matters.

Some highlights from the first 10 months of the sustainability programme include:

- Gathering stories from Quakers worldwide about the actions Friends and Yearly Meetings are taking to promote environmental sustainability and the spiritual impetus for these actions. Through this work we are building a picture of Friends' responses to sustainability concerns around the world. The FWCC World Office is celebrating and sharing these stories to inspire others. You can read and share some of these stories online at [fwcc.world/sustainability-resources](http://fwcc.world/sustainability-resources).
- In partnership with Britain Yearly Meeting's Young Friends General Meeting, we have established *The Friend Connection*, a series of quarterly online 'live chat' events which focus on a theme and enable real-time connections between Young Adult Friends from around the world. Participants to date have joined from the USA, Bolivia, Kenya, Burundi, Philippines, UK and Spain. If you would like to take part in future sessions please email Susanna.
- FWCC, along with the Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), represented Friends at the UN climate talks COP23 in Bonn in November 2017. The conference was presided over by Fiji. This was the first COP to be hosted by a small-island, developing nation, although the conference was held in Bonn for logistical reasons. The climate talks convened diplomats, ministers and civil society for the latest annual round of United Nations negotiations to advance

international climate action. It was an opportunity to make connections with other faith groups and FWCC signed the Interfaith Climate Statement promoting sustainable lifestyles.

- FWCC has joined the *Living the Change* sustainable living interfaith initiative, representing Quakers worldwide. We are working in partnership with a global community of religious and spiritual institutions including Buddhist, Catholic, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim networks to champion sustainable living. The interfaith initiative involves making commitments to a sustainable lifestyle, focusing on energy use, diet and transportation. (*Read more on page 5.*)
- Developing FWCC webpages offering a resources library featuring case studies, posters, publications, videos and articles.
- Increasing use of Twitter has seen FWCC World Office Twitter followers grow by 82% since 4 September 2017.
- Building connections with other Quaker organisations doing similar work, including Quaker United Nations Office, Quaker Earthcare Witness and Friends Committee on National Legislation.
- Developing a Quaker Toolkit as a joint publication with Britain Yearly Meeting's Environmental and Sustainability Programme to help Quakers have confident conversations about climate change with powerful people.

## Activities within FWCC Sections

- Participating in the US-based *Quakers and climate disruption* group to support the efforts of Friends in North America to build collaboration and coordination on climate action between Quaker organisations and across theological traditions.
- Delivered a presentation on *Facing the Challenge of Climate Change as Friends* at the Nairobi Yearly Meeting Young Friends Annual Conference in April to around 300 Young Adult Friends.
- Attended the EMES Annual Meeting in Bergen, Norway, and delivered a presentation on the theme *Sustainability Matters: Every Action Matters: how Quakers worldwide are working to sustain life on earth.*
- Participated (via web-link) in an international seminar on climate change organised by Aotearoa New Zealand Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre.

Please get in touch with Susanna to find out how to get involved and to share your sustainability story: [susannam@fwcc.world](mailto:susannam@fwcc.world).

# FWCC joins Multi-Faith *Living the Change* sustainable living initiative, representing Quakers worldwide

FWCC is working in partnership with a global community of religious and spiritual institutions including Buddhist, Catholic, Christian, Hindu, Jewish and Muslim networks, and sustainable consumption experts, to champion sustainable living. *Living the Change* was initiated at the UN Climate Conference in 2017 by the US-based multi-faith organisation, GreenFaith.

As people of faith, many Quakers are committing to making changes in our own lives. We invite you to think about the individual choices you can make to reduce your impact on the environment, and how you can become part of the solution in three high-impact areas: *transportation, home energy use, and diet.*

Not all of these choices will be appropriate for every Quaker community around the world, but we ask Friends, meetings and churches to reflect and ask, without judgement or guilt, what could we do to make a difference?

We advocate a flexible and thoughtful approach. We need to keep asking ourselves whether we can do things more sustainably and take incremental steps towards a more sustainable life.

Do you want to adopt a more sustainable lifestyle? Can you make changes in some of these high-impact areas? **Join us in *Living the Change!***

Visit [www.livingthechange.net/my-commitment](http://www.livingthechange.net/my-commitment)



\* It's World Quaker Day on Sunday 7 October 2018. Consider how you might celebrate sustainable living on World Quaker Day!

# If God calls us to it, God will see us through it

## *Central Executive Committee Notes*

(2018 CEC minutes will be available soon on the FWCC World Office web site.)

The **Central Executive Committee of FWCC** met in April 2018 in Northern Ireland, close to where the artist of the painting “The Presence in the Midst” spent his childhood. Many of us grew up in homes where this painting hung on the wall, reminding us of the closeness of God.

We grounded our work in the *U-theory* (Peter Senge and Otto Sharmer), letting go of assumptions and past patterns, in order to let new inspiration come. Asking ourselves, “What wants to be born?” allowed new possibilities to emerge. Those ideas can then be enacted as prototypes. We were reminded that early Quakers let go of cultural assumptions about Christianity and gradually embodied a new understanding of what Christ required of them. We were reminded of Romans 12:2, where we are told not to conform to the world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, so we may discern the will of God.

The **International Membership Applications Committee (IMAC)** addresses new applications for those who are not near a meeting, church, or yearly meeting. Once an International Member is approved, we encourage the new member to engage with the Section and its activities. Section Secretaries and IMAC continue to look for ways to improve the pastoral care aspect of International Membership.

**Young Adult Friends Development Fund** (from **Quaker Youth Pilgrimage Funds**) documents have been drawn up and are going through a final review. Details of the fund and the procedure for application will be made available by September 1. Email queries to [gretchenc@fwcc.world](mailto:gretchenc@fwcc.world).

The 2017 **financial accounts** were presented and approved. There were questions raised about the cost structure of the World Plenary Meeting in 2023 and about the ongoing liability of the Pensions Trust. Budget forecasts through 2020 will reduce reserves without more significant fundraising. The CEC agreed to eliminate deficit budgets by 2020. This is the impetus for retaining Michael Wajda, professional Quaker fundraiser, through the World Office, to benefit all of FWCC. He will do Major Donor Fundraising on behalf of Sections and the World Office. As one organization, all our boats rise together. We expressed gratitude for the abundance we have received over the years, recognizing that the organization has been sustained by Friends who have given gladly, even in some difficult situations. We appreciated the work of the International Finance Committee, made up of Section Treasurers, the FWCC clerk and general secretary, and two members at large.

The CEC heard of the ongoing work on **Sustainability**, which grew out of previous world gatherings. Susanna Mattingly has been strengthening the network of interested Friends, especially Young Adult Friends, and making connections within Britain Yearly Meeting which has an active sustainability programme. There is much more on the FWCC World Office web site.

**Addressing Issues of Privilege and Historic Injustice** took much of our attention, working in small groups to address these issues ourselves, on a personal level. We worked in response to the CEC minute on this issue from 2017 (on the FWCC World Office web site). We hope to open up dialogue as a convening function, leading to the World Plenary Meeting in 2023.

Regarding the **World Plenary Meeting 2023**, we accepted the invitation and approved the meeting being held in Southern Africa Yearly Meeting. While early in the planning cycle, we approved the composition of the International Planning Committee.

At the heart of everything that was done at this year's CEC was the awareness that in order for FWCC to flourish in the future we must continue to strengthen our commitment to working as one organisation while valuing the work of the four Sections and the World Office.

The CEC is a body made up of Friends from each Section, with a variety of ages and Quaker traditions. We all speak English, but certainly not as a first language. We laughed and enjoyed the fellowship and felt the weight of making good decisions for FWCC. It is a privilege and a joy to be clerk of this committee and to serve Friends in this way.

Simon C. Lamb

CLERK, CENTRAL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



FWCC Central Executive Committee, April 2018, Moyallon, Northern Ireland

# Sharing the Good News

## *Africa Section*

### **FWCC Clerk and General Secretary visit the Africa Section**

Simon C. Lamb and Gretchen Castle visited the Africa Section in June and had the opportunity to meet with the Section Executive Committee, Friends United Meeting, and Friends Theological College.

The Africa Section is hiring a new Executive Secretary, hopefully by September or October. Churchill Malimo, former Executive Secretary, is now in an executive leadership position with Nairobi Yearly Meeting. There is gratitude for his service to FWCC and for the continuing work of Nancy Edith Mijega. In the absence of an Executive Secretary, the officers and the Executive Committee are working very diligently to ensure the work continues and that Friends across the Section are well served.

The Section Clerk, Bainito Wamalwa, has been tireless in ensuring that the Executive Committee is run with a disciplined and inclusive Quaker business process, and that the structure of the strategic plan is giving the committee a clear purpose and work plan.

The Executive Committee is made up of 17 Friends from Kenya, South Africa, Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda; they are programmed, evangelical, and unprogrammed; they are women and men; and they are a strong, committed, learning group of Friends who care deeply about FWCC and the strength of the Quaker family.

The work of the Section is focused on the five pillars of the strategic plan: Visibility of FWCC, Fundraising, Peacebuilding, Unity among Quakers, including advocacy work and Sustainability. Young Adult Friends are active in all areas.

Questions addressed by the Executive Committee included how do we multiply what we have been given and how do we become an organisation with impact?

Activities in the past year have included: a strategic planning meeting in Uganda; developing a fundraising proposal with campaigners and a trained sub-committee; enabling Mpesa on-line pay bill to receive contributions; an end of year tea with yearly meeting presiding clerks to talk about FWCC and the strategic plan; a meeting of general secretaries and general superintendents; a successful World Quaker Day; a planned Peace Conference in conjunction with the Peace Committee in the near future.

World Quaker Day plans include visits to all Africa Yearly Meetings, training for pastors and general secretaries, taking collections from villages and churches, and involving national media.

At the end of the meeting, Bainito said, 'Make this a Section you want to be in.' He added, 'We disagree in love. We are one.'

Meeting with **Friends United Meeting** in Kisumu, Gretchen and Simon were very blessed by Kelly Kellum's presence on his first day as General Secretary. They were joined by John Muhanji and Shawn McCaughey, Africa Ministries Programme staff. It was an amazing meeting, generating many ways of working together.

Visitation continued at **Friends Theological College**, where they were welcomed by Robert Wafula, FTC staff, and board members. There was time for each to talk, to share the hopes of FTC to be more visible and useful to Quakers in Africa, and to share about the roles of FWCC and FUM. Friends enjoyed good relationships and a deeper understanding of how our organizations work together.

Simon and Gretchen felt very grateful for this time of learning and seeing and listening. "As in all of our work, there are challenges, and with God's guidance and the support of FWCC – as one organization – the Africa Section will continue to be a most vital part of the Quaker family," said Gretchen.



FWCC Africa Section Executive Committee, Bungoma, Kenya, 2018

## ***Asia-West Pacific Section***

Ronald Titus took over from Patricia Macgregor in January 2018. Ronald is from Bhopal, Madyha Pradesh, which is in mid India. Ronald has been the AWPS Associate Secretary for the last few years and is already very familiar with the work of the section. Ronald is also very familiar with Friends' work in India and his knowledge and wisdom is invaluable. All of us in AWPS are grateful for the service of Patricia over many years. Patricia is a life long passionate Quaker and during her time as Clerk she travelled extensively and particularly took an interest in the many small groups of Friends in our part of the world. We offer Ronald our prayerful support as he takes on this important and challenging role.

Our other big news is that we have a **Development Committee** made up of representatives from India, Japan, Aotearoa/New Zealand and Australia. The committee has been set up as a response to the report that Michael Wadja wrote for the Central Executive Committee. The committee aims to ensure that AWPS has a sustainable future. They are doing this by ensuring we have clear goals and establishing ways of funding the work we are being called to do.

From September 12–16 there will be a **section meeting** in Hong Kong. There is big environmental and financial cost when Friends across the section gather and so this does not happen every year. We last met in 2015 and there is much anticipation and excitement as this meeting draws nearer. Michael Wajda and his wife Alison Levie will be attending the gathering and will then travel in the ministry to Australia and New Zealand. Michael and Alison will be promoting the work of AWPS and offering workshops to Quaker meetings.

We have been hosting **meeting for worship on line** (using Zoom) for over a year now. This occurs twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursday, and Friends have joined us from India, Japan, Indonesia, The Phillipines, Vietnam, Thailand, New Zealand and Australia. There is 30 minutes of expectant waiting and then 30 minutes of fellowship. A number of isolated Friends participate and this time of worship is a very nourishing connecting point across our vast section. If you would like to join in this worship time, please contact me and I can add you to the email list. A reminder email is sent to interested people in the week of the meeting for worship.

Hopes and aspirations in the coming years

- To develop a sound financial base.
- To build increased commitment to FWCC in all YMs and monthly meetings.
- Friendships between individual Quakers and meetings in AWPS will flourish.
- Each meeting in our section will have at least one active, vital ‘companion meeting’ with another meeting in our section.
- Quaker education and spiritual nurture programs offered.
- To support the sustainability work of the World Office.
- To be a part of building a flourishing global organisation.

This work is a challenge, a privilege and a pleasure. I am a care taker for this global organisation that belongs to us all. I nurture the Asia-West Pacific Section on behalf of the worldwide family of Friends. AWPS values being part of this family and we appreciate the many ways we are connected with individual Quakers, worship groups, churches and meetings in many parts of the world. Please hold us in the light.

Ronis Chapman

AWPS SECRETARY

## ***Europe and Middle East Section***

This year EMES is celebrating its 80th birthday, and for this reason we had a larger Annual Meeting – around 90 Friends (from 17 countries, including two Friends from Kenya) gathered for four days to consider the theme, taken from Revelation 21:1, *a new heaven and a new earth; finding new light in turbulent times*. We met in Bergen, Norway, over midsummer weekend, the long light evenings giving us lots of opportunities to walk in the woods and hold long conversations late into the night. Norway Yearly Meeting has its 200th anniversary this year which we also celebrated. We were joined by three former EMES executive secretaries and two former clerks who shared reflections on some of the changes in the section they had seen during and since their times in office. As well as remembering and celebrating the past, EMES is looking to the future and has been working on a new strategy for EMES for 2020–30.

As well as all the regular gatherings of yearly meetings across Europe a number of other events have also taken place. The annual Central European Gathering was held in Budapest, Hungary, in April where Friends considered nonviolence and ways of building a more peaceful world. In September we will be holding a gathering in Kiev, Ukraine, for Russian speaking Quaker seekers from a number of countries in the region. And plans are also underway for our annual Peace & Service Consultation, which this year will be held at Quaker House in Bad Pyrmont, Germany, in November. Our next Annual Meeting will be in May 2019 in Budapest.

In June, 36 Friends from across EMES took part in witness at the *Eurosatory* arms fair in Paris. They held a meeting for worship and joined in with other demonstrations taking place.

Our executive secretary, Marisa Johnson, was joined by an assistant secretary, Michael Eccles, in March this year. This means that EMES now has six days per week of secretary staff time, alongside the work of the ministry & outreach coordinator, Julia Ryberg.

By the time you read this our new website should have gone live. Do have a look: **[www.fwccemes.org](http://www.fwccemes.org)**.

Marisa Johnson, EMES SECRETARY



International visitors at Britain Yearly Meeting

## ***Section of the Americas***

The Traveling Ministry Corps has been up and running for one year now and visits have been made across the Section, from Seattle, Washington, to Winston-Salem, North Carolina, to Friends in Jamaica and Belize, and in Peru and Bolivia. The second year's ministers have joined the original cohort and are ready to visit Friends meetings and churches who seek an enriching and revitalizing opportunity to share their spiritual experiences with Friends who are deeply gifted and committed to supporting other Friends to deepen their own ministry. We now have ten Spanish speaking ministers, including seven young adult Friends, and eight English speaking ministers, including two young adults. You may enjoy our training ideas:

Spanish: <https://youtu.be/qsyezRV7V7o> (1 min)

or English: <https://youtu.be/K6ff81WPBfl> (80 min)

Friends in affiliated yearly meetings in the Americas can invite a member of the TMC from another YM to visit your monthly meeting. Applications to join the Traveling Ministry Corps for the next two year cycle are due by September 30, 2018. You can read more about the current ministers and the program at [www.fwccamericas.org/traveling-ministry](http://www.fwccamericas.org/traveling-ministry)

The 2019 Section Meeting of the Section of the Americas will be held March 21-24, 2019 at Lake Doniphan Conference and Retreat Center, in Excelsior Springs, Missouri, just outside Kansas City, MO, in the heartland of the United States. The theme will be iCome and See! (John 1:46) with explorations of “who is my neighbor?” and “how can we all be Friends?”

FWCC events are always an opportunity to practice the skills of cross-cultural (theological, ethnic, rural-urban, racial, generational) communication that Friends in the Americas are seeking to build. A main purpose of the Section Meeting is to facilitate an experience of the power of the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of God, the Inward Christ, the Light Within. We seek a personal encounter and transformative experience in worship and in workshops, with Scripture, through the ministry of the Traveling Ministry Corps, in the midst of changing times and conflict. Registration will open in November 2018.

[www.fwccamericas.org/events](http://www.fwccamericas.org/events)

Robin Mohr

SECTION OF THE AMERICAS SECRETARY



FWCC depends on all Friends.

Help support Friends' work in the world.

[fwcc.world/about-fwcc/donate](http://fwcc.world/about-fwcc/donate)

or contribute through your Section.



**Save the date . . .**  
**WORLD QUAKER DAY**  
**7 October 2018**

*of faith and hope? How do we grow in Quaker unity? Share **your** stories on World Quaker Day, locally and globally!*

*Find more information on the World Quaker Day website:*

**[www.worldquakerday.org](http://www.worldquakerday.org)**

*FWCC invites every Quaker meeting and church from around the world to celebrate **WORLD QUAKER DAY (WQD)** on 7 October 2018. The theme is Crossing Cultures, Sharing Stories. As the sun rises in each area of the world, we want to remember that Quakers are worshipping through every time zone, celebrating our deep connections across cultures and Quaker traditions. Let us be increasingly known to each other in Friendship. How do we know each other? How do we share stories*



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*Save the date . . .*

**WORLD QUAKER DAY**

**7 October 2018**

