

Cotteridge Quaker Meeting

Lettings and charging policy

A Lettings

General principles

The meeting house provides a home to Cotteridge Quakers, where regular meetings for worship take place as well as other Quaker spiritual and social activities. The meeting also wants its building to serve and benefit the local community, and so makes space available for hire at reasonable rates. Hire fees contribute to the costs of running the building.

At the centre of Quaker religious experience is a belief in the fundamental equality of the human race and a respect for all creation. Quakers believe that all people are equal before God, irrespective of race, gender, religion, sexual orientation, class, physical or mental capability. We expect our users to be in sympathy with this ethos.

We particularly welcome the use of our building by groups which promote

- community-building
- social inclusion and support for marginalised members of society
- peace-building and social justice
- ecologically sound, sustainable living
- learning at any age
- healthy living
- engagement with democratic processes

We will provide space for groups which promote moral, ethical and political debate, so long as in doing so they do not advocate or promote violence or in other ways violate Quaker values.

We will not accept bookings from groups or individuals whose words or actions diminish the dignity of any person or group of people;

Practicalities

We do not accept regular external bookings on Sundays.

We do not permit use of alcohol, tobacco, illegal drugs or other intoxicating and addictive substances anywhere on our premises. Neither do we permit gambling and games of chance, nor any military-related activities.

We will consider hustings-type activities involving several political parties, but we do not take bookings from individual political parties.

The meeting's wardens are the first point of contact for all bookings. If they are unable to decide on accepting a new booking, they will refer the matter to the meeting's premises committee, and they in turn can refer to Cotteridge Quaker Meeting, which will be the final arbiter.

B Charges

Quaker use

- No charge is made for use by groups which are part of the life and work of Cotteridge Quaker Meeting or Central England Area Meeting.
- No charge is made for use by committees or departments of Britain Yearly Meeting or by Quaker Groups recognised by Britain Yearly Meeting (as listed on the BYM website). However, these users are asked to consider making a donation in recognition that there is a real cost to the meeting in providing facilities.
- No charge is made to individual members and regular attenders of Cotteridge meeting who may want to make a personal booking not on meeting business and not on behalf of another group, for example for a birthday party or family celebration. Again, these users are asked to consider making a donation in recognition of the cost to the meeting of providing facilities.

Public hiring

We operate a single charging rate, which applies to all external users.

The wardens have some discretion to offer reduced rates to hirers who only wish to book a part-session, or who only expect very small numbers, e.g. one-to-one mediation work. This should not normally be done to the regular exclusion of full-session or larger groups, and should be reported to Premises Committee.

Our charitable status means we do not offer free use of the building to non-Quaker groups, unless their work is formally recognised as a Concern of the meeting and this fact has been recorded in a minute of the local business meeting.

Final HR/Premises Committee 30.6.17