

PARTICIPANT INFORMATION:

Coming into the Light: a study of the Quaker experience of conviction

Many thanks for your emailed expression of interest, I appreciate your time and hope you will consider contributing to this project. This qualitative research study is about the uniquely Quaker experience of 'conviction' by which I mean a person's transformative experience of becoming Quaker. It is not essential that you to be in formal Membership – I realise that some Friends make a decision not to do so. It is enough that you identify yourself as Quaker.

The purpose of this study is to find out how Quakers in the modern world experience the certainty that the Quaker way resonates for them, whatever their parallel beliefs, and how their lives evolve as a result. I would hope to visit you and spend at least an hour, probably two or even more, sharing your experiences of conviction, the events leading up to it and the feelings it evoked, both immediately and over the following months and years (if appropriate). Some of the issues we discuss will be joyful, but it is possible that others will not be. If you feel more comfortable you are welcome to have a Quaker Friend, perhaps an Elder, present.

If you agree to be in this study, anything you share with me will only be used anonymously in the research or related publications. I will, with your permission, digitally record our conversation and the recording will be treated with absolute confidentiality according to Birmingham University's Code of Practice for Research. It will be transcribed, any identifying details removed, then the original recording will be erased. Data will be kept anonymously for a period of ten years, as required by the university. Reports coming out of this study will not disclose the identities of individual participants. You can withdraw from the project at any time until January 2018

You are welcome to ask questions of me about the project, or to contact Ben Pink Dandelion at Woodbrooke if you wish to be assured of the genuine nature of this work. I hope you feel able to contribute and, if you do, please read and return the accompanying Consent form to me by email and I will get in touch shortly.

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