

A collective poem – living our faith in the community

The seed never sees the flower

I listen with love to find the person beyond the label and they give me their trust

I help people who think they have no voice to get their voice heard

We build bridges over prejudice and stigma

I make connections – share people's pain

I provide a place where people can get strength and refreshment through my work at Woodbrooke

I am called to contribute to peace and justice in Palestine

I talk to people on buses, I see them as human beings not cardboard cut-outs

I try to be flexible to unexpected calls on my time from friends and family

My ongoing quest is finding ways to hear and communicate with my non-verbal grand-daughter

I use my mediation skills and wisdom between family members

At work I try to be true to my beliefs and lead by example in challenging situations

I try to engage fully with the people I am with and be interested in the world around me

In the work I do in education my values are consistent with Quaker values, listening, respecting, enabling

I share Oxfam values, contributing to combatting inequality

I help bring to life the visions and aspirations of communities

I work to represent Quakers in Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, with Woodbrooke and the Quaker Tapestry, spreading Quaker values

I try to have time for people, to listen and understand what is going on in their lives

I try always to be compassionate and understanding and encourage people to think about things from different perspectives

I try to listen

I feel led to consider my parenting, to engage with and support asylum seekers in Sheffield and to open up their own experience through poetry for young people

I like SPORT because it's very fun and I can play and laugh with my friends – my favourite sports are FOOTBALL and GYMNASTICS!!!

From my current pace in a spiritual wilderness I can still pay attention to everyday encounters to make them positive experiences for me and others

What makes my heart sing? Living as I do now in Slovenia I can respond with love to the simple needs of refugees

In my present state of transition after fulfilling a particularly responsible role, there is space to be open to new light

Living in the Quaker Community enables me to be involved in many Quaker activities including facilitating Kindlers in-reach workshops, and also to pursue my concern for climate change

Pausing together in the light before meals

Learning to truly listen to people who have been traumatised without having my own agenda

Mindfulness really helps me and we have Friday celebration where we say our favourite things from the week to stay positive

Being inclusive and peacekeeping with the people I come into contact with during the week

To live with integrity, to pause and choose what is God's will in each situation

True silence is important to show all sides of a situation

Finding kindness, sometimes in difficult situations, through pausing

Live compassionately

(Written collectively at Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting, 12.03.2016)