**Research Fellowship:**

**The Changing Face of Faith and British Quakerism**

**Centre for Research in Quaker Studies (CRQS), Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre**

Job Title: Research Fellow

Start date: June 2017

Salary: £28,970 p.a. pro rata

Length of project: 14 weeks full time employment, with an additional week of work for knowledge transfer on dates to be decided.

**Project Overview**

This project is being undertaken to help Quakers understand the changing nature of faith observance in Britain today and to discern their response.

**Project Objectives**

* Identify what impact, if any, the changing face of faith expression in present day Britain is having on the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).
* Identify and learn about new faith and faith-type groups with similar values with which Quakers in Britain could work.

**Activities and methodology**

The detail of the activities and methodology will be finalised at planning meetings but the following gives an indication of key activities and approaches which might form part of the project.

Phase 1:

* Survey recent Friends to understand what attracted them to Quakerism. (using a bespoke survey, to be designed, with particular Quaker meetings chosen as a sample or using snowball or purposive sampling, i.e. an open request for help), also interviewing some of those surveyed.
* Review current faith observance in Britain, noting trends in organisation of traditional churches, new forms of church, and expressions of both spirituality and of secular community (mainly desk research but also visits as below).

Phase 2:

* Review of current relevant Quaker faith partnerships; including those existing from centrally managed work, local/area meetings and Registered Quaker Bodies, to identify those where partnership with both religious and ‘spiritual/wellbeing’ groups would be worth investigating (desk research but also conversations with key staff colleagues, AM Clerks, and correspondents of Registered Quaker Bodies.).
* Researcher to visit groups to get a better sense of what they are about and/or talk to key people in other groups. (primary research, desk based and visiting groups)
* Research and report on ways Quakers might engage with new groups for shared understanding and action on issues of common concern. (Analysis and writing up).

The exact pattern or working time will also need to be finalised but the following gives an indication of the possible breakdown of time: 75 days total to include: 70 days of research and writing (10 days scoping, 10 days survey research, 10 days on desk. research, 10 days primary research, 20 days analysis, 10 days writing up) with 5 days of knowledge transmission/dissemination.

**Research Outcomes and Dissemination**

It is planned that interim findings will be presented to interested Quakers in the week beginning July 30 at the University of Warwick. A meeting to share results and plan dissemination will be held in September/October 2017.

Research outcomes, in addition to the research report, will include material which is of use to Quakers themselves as well as the possibility of academic articles.

The final report would include an executive summary but then be divided into two parts in relations to the two aims of the research, each with their own summaries. Further dissemination is key to this project but its exact nature will depend on research findings. It may include material for a website, symposia for Quaker policy-makers and other faith group representatives, and ways of interpreting the findings for Quakers.

**Project Information**

This project is being managed by Centre for Research in Quaker Studies (CRQS) on behalf of the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relationships (QCCIR), a committee of Britain Yearly Meeting, the national body of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

The project will be supervised by Ben Pink Dandelion, Director of CRQS and Professor of Quaker Studies at the University of Birmingham.

The Centre for Research in Quaker Studies (CRQS) (formerly centre for Postgraduate Quaker Studies) is the world’s leading research centre for the study of Quakerism and has particular strengths in the sociology of religion.

**Job Description**

Role summary

To work with the Project Manger to undertake the outlined research project, including literature review, fieldwork, report writing and dissemination.

Responsibilities

* To undertake survey, field and desk research as required in pursuit of the aims of the project within the time allocated
* To analyse and report the major findings to the project group
* To report these findings in various ways to variety of audiences as agreed with the Project Manager.

**Person Specification:**

Qualifications:

Essential

* Completion of a PhD in a related field

Skills & Attributes

Essential

* Familiarity with current literature in the sociology of religion
* Proven ability to design and implement survey research
* Experience of qualitative interviewing
* Ability to work to be self-motivated and well-organised, working to tight deadlines with strong administrative skills.
* Ability to communicate clearly through writing and speaking to a range of audiences

Desirable

* Existing knowledge of, or interest in, the beliefs and values of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain.

Other

* Eligible to work in the UK. We regret that we are unable to apply on a candidate’s behalf for a UK permit to work in this role.
* Willing and able to start full-time work on or shortly after 5th June 2017 for 14 weeks. If you have existing commitments during this time please contact us to discuss your plans.
* Willing and able to undertake five additional days dissemination thereafter to be arranged as required.
* Willing and able to undertake some weekend and evening work if required by the research project and/or dissemination.
* Willing and able to travel to undertake fieldwork around Britain

**Ineligibility:**

* This post is not open to anyone who served on the Quaker Committee on Christian and Interfaith Relations at any point in 2016 or who is currently serving on that committee.

**Working time and location**

* This is a full-time post equivalent to an average of 35 hours per week (excluding breaks) for a total of 15 weeks to be worked at times to suit the needs of the job.
* The post can either be based at Woodbrooke or from the research fellow’s home or other location. If not based at Woodbrooke the job will require occasional travel to Woodbrooke for project meetings.

**Remuneration and benefits**

* Salary £8,325 paid monthly (£28,970pa pro rata).
* Annual leave entitlement: 8 days total (including bank holidays).
* Free staff lunch and refreshments, and family and friends discounts.

**Applications and closing dates**

* To apply for this position please send a completed application form.
* Closing date for applications: Friday 28 April 12 noon BST.
* Interviews: To be held at Woodbrooke, Birmingham on Thursday 18 May.
* Applications should be marked as ‘Confidential: CRQS Research Fellow’ and sent by email to: Ben Pink Dandelion : b.p.dandelion@bham.ac.uk
* Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged. Shortlisted candidates will be contacted within 2 weeks of the closing date.
* If you would like to talk informally about this post, please contact Ben Pink Dandelion: