



# Starting Points

## Table of Offerings – Suggestions

(Developed from a Turning the Tide activity <http://www.turning-the-tide.org>)

- *Packet of seeds* – to symbolise seeds of peace/war.
- *White Feather* – to symbolise the white feathers given to conscientious objectors during WW1. These were sometimes put through their doors anonymously. The white feather is a symbol of cowardice supposedly coming from cockfighting and the belief that cockerel sporting a white feather in its tail is likely to be a poor fighter. Pure-breed gamecocks do not show white feathers, so its presence indicates that the cockerel is an inferior cross-breed.



- *Weighing scales* – the importance of justice in peace making.
  - *Crystal/glass* – the need to be open to the inner Light.
  - *Picture of Amnesty International's symbol of the candle and barbed wire* – the importance of human rights and justice in peace-building. Quakers were instrumental in setting up Amnesty International, with Eric Baker writing an article for the Observer in 1961 calling for “the amnesty of all political prisoners” and beginning a campaign that resulted in the founding of the organisation in 1962.



- *Drift wood/leaves* – the need to value the earth. At Yearly Meeting 2011 Quakers made a corporate commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community.
- *Packet of love heart sweets* – the need to respond to hatred and violence with acts of love.



- *Plasticine* - the need to believe we can change the world.
- *Paua shells* – New Zealand shells - esteemed seafood and valued for traditional and contemporary arts and crafts. Paua are frequently used to represent the eyes in Maori carvings and are associated with the stars - the symbolic eyes of ancestors that gaze down from the night sky – could represent valuing the earth.



- *Map of Israel-Palestine*, QPSW run the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel, a joint project of Churches Together in Britain & Ireland. It aims for the end to the Israeli occupation and sends volunteers to provide protection by presence, support Israeli and Palestinian peace activists, monitor and report violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.