



AN ACTIVITY USED AT THE QUAKER LIFE FAITH AND PRACTICE CONFERENCE 2010

GIFT SQUARES

This activity offers an opportunity for creative response at Meeting events or workshops – leading perhaps to worship sharing or all-age worship. Friends bring their finished squares as gifts to share with the group in the form of a patchwork carpet in the centre of the gathering.

How to do it

Make available:

1. Plenty of **foot-square pieces of card** - in a range of colours if possible. Each person takes one square in a colour of their choice.
2. Various resources for working on the squares. Some obvious ones are: black markers, felt pens, glue sticks, sellotape, scissors, collage materials (coloured and textured papers, fabrics threads and ribbons, magazine photos, glitter etc.)

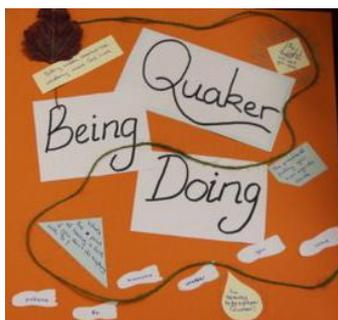
The only instruction is:

You can do anything at all with your card **except** change its size or shape.

The idea is:

To reflect on a question or idea or stimulus arising during your event, which you have perhaps explored through speaking and listening. Now have a go at responding in another way – creatively with images, objects or written words.

A suggestion to get you started – Simplify a topic question or concept first, perhaps into a phrase or a single word, e.g.

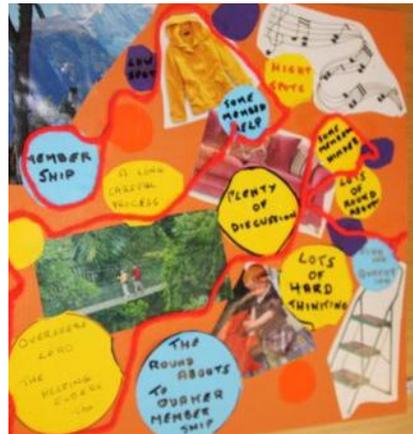


*Quaker journey
changes
my Quaker life
we are fed
our wider experience
the creative Spirit*



Then respond to your stimulus in whatever way you choose – make it as simple as a single written word, or as ambitious as a structure three feet high. Some ideas:

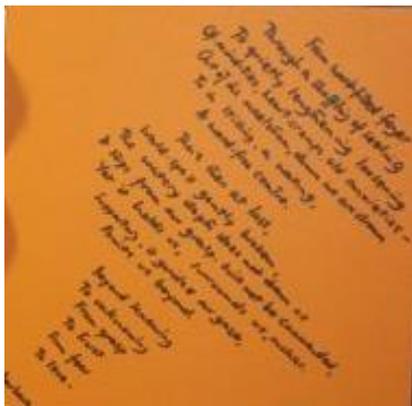
Make a collage of written and drawn ideas, thoughts, notes, doodles, which you cut or tear up and arrange for an interesting effect. You might add some much larger words for visual impact, perhaps by writing on paper shapes to stick on or by adding cut out individual letters.



Make a purely visual image – in collage, or by drawing



Write something bold enough to read from a couple of metres away



Make a 3-dimensional sculpture or construction, out of paper or card or anything else you can find, and fix this to your card square



Write a poem (in largish print) on your square. Consider the visual effect too. Make a square poem, or another form that acknowledges the square