

Quaker Quicks

“I think we could do with more Quaker books.” That’s not a phrase you hear every day, least of all from the CEO of a commercial publisher.

The publisher was John Hunt, founder of the eponymous publishing house that publishes in English all round the world. John followed up this never-to-be-forgotten phrase by saying that he felt that Quakers have a voice that needs to be heard, particularly at the moment. JHP had published a very successful series of pagan books called Pagan Portals, and he felt he could do the same for Quakers – small books, of about 20,000 words about different aspects of the Quaker way, mostly for those who might not know much but were interested in hearing more. In his follow-up email, John wrote that the series wouldn’t make his fortune, but “basically, just think it would be something worth doing...need reasons to justify my place on the planet.”

This was in 2017. I then wrote to a couple of dozen Quaker writers who had a track record and could establish the market with some successful titles. We threw around some ideas for a series name – much harder with an initial Q! - and eventually came up with “Quaker Quicks”. Within a year seven books had been signed up, six from the UK and one from the States, and the first title in the series, John Lampen’s *Quaker Roots and Branches*, was published.

Now, at the beginning of 2023, the series is really established and selling well. Fourteen titles have been published, with another nine coming out this year. More authors are coming from the States, and from other countries too. Several writers are thinking about contributing. I keep a watching brief on possible duplication, but it is down to the publishers to decide what to accept.

We feel this series has given heart to Quaker writing, and hope it will be an ongoing series for many years to come.

If you would like to write something for the series, do have a look at existing titles – some of them are here: <https://www.johnhuntpublishing.com/blogs/christian-alternative/introducing-quaker-quicks/>

Here’s the complete list: <https://www.johnhuntpublishing.com/our-books/jhp-search-results/?txt=quaker+quicks&imprint=0&category=0>

To submit a manuscript, John Hunt suggests that you "go through the boring exercise of entering a proposal on Christian Alternative/Author Enquiry website <https://www.johnhuntpublishing.com/submissions/> putting in Christian Alternatives and mentioning Quaker Quicks, of course. Everything happens online, but one gets used to it!

Jennifer Kavanagh

www.jenniferkavanagh.co.uk