

# Background information

On the 21st day of the 11th month 1660, a declaration was made to Charles II on behalf of Quakers that was the first written declaration of a Quaker peace testimony.

- It was made by twelve Quakers, including George Fox.
- It was not just to tell Charles II about our peace testimony - the main motivation behind it was that many Quakers had sided with the Parliamentarians in the English Civil War and Quakers did not want to be persecuted as a group now that the monarchy had been restored.
- Although the declaration was made in the 11th month 1660, the 350th anniversary occurs in January 2011, as in the 17th century the year began on 25 March, so the 11th month was January, not November.
- The declaration is not the same as the peace testimony: a Quaker testimony is not a set of words - we have no creeds.
- Quaker testimonies are expressed in our lives through our actions - a bit like the English constitution, which is not written down but is expressed in our law.
- This is summed up by minute 23 of Britain Yearly Meeting 1993, which began: "The Peace Testimony is about deeds, not creed; not a form of words but a way of living. It is the cumulative witness of generations of Quakers."
- The declaration to Charles II was an expression of our peace testimony.