



# What Can We Learn From The Quakers? The Management Practice of Decision-Making Through Discernment

**Monday 17 September 2018**

Kindly sponsored by **The Centre for Enterprise, Markets & Ethics**, and organised by **Northumbria University**, we are pleased to offer this FREE ½ day workshop and short course to managers involved in private, public and third-sector organizations or those with an interest in how to make better decisions.

The Quakers are well-known for their success in business in the nineteenth and mid-twentieth century, with a number of well-known high-street names founded by Quaker entrepreneurs, including Cadbury, Rowntree, Barclays Bank, Lloyds Bank, to name but a few. What is perhaps less well-known is how their ethics and values grounded their approach to responsibility in business, and how these ethics and values influenced how Quaker businesses were run and managed.

In this workshop, we examine the contribution of Quaker ethics and values in business, before exploring the history and heritage of the Rowntree chocolate business in York, and the contemporary and successful manufacturing business, the Scott Bader Commonwealth, constituted under Quaker principles. We then explore the Quaker management practice of 'discernment' – a key characteristic of the Quaker approach to complex decision-making – and invite you to practice the method through a 'real-life' example. Discernment is a kind of group-consensus decision-making process that may help contemporary businesses of all shapes and sizes to make better and more participative decisions.

The workshop and course will, thus, appeal to a wide range of practitioners interested in responsible business and involved in decision-making in organizations – within teams, projects, or in management functions.



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NEWCASTLE



# Speakers & facilitators

We welcome the following speakers and facilitators:

**Steven Burkeman** – Trustee Joseph Rowntree Foundation and Joseph Rowntree Society  
**Robert Gibson** – Guardian Trustee Scott Bader Commonwealth  
**Richard Turnbull** – Director, Centre for Enterprise, Markets and Ethics  
**Nicholas Burton** – Senior Lecturer, Northumbria University

# Timings

The timings of the workshop/short course are as follows:

Arrivals - 8.45am coffee and pastries  
Session commences – 9am  
Session closes – 12pm  
Light lunch and departures – 12-1pm

# Location

Room 401, Floor 4, City Campus East 1, Faculty of Business & law,  
Northumbria University, Newcastle, NE1 8ST (Building no. 17 on the map below)



# Booking arrangements

Please email Dr. Nicholas Burton:  
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