

# Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

## Issue 12: Winter 2024



### Welcome to the winter issue!

Welcome to this Winter edition of Clerks' Update, the communication channel for clerks of local and area Quaker communities. You can view an archive of past messages on our website at [www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update](http://www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update).

### Information for Quaker clerks

#### Reviewing Britain Yearly Meeting's structures

The Group to Review Central Structures (GRCS) was set up by BYM trustees following Yearly Meeting 2023. The group was asked to look at how we could make our central structures simpler, more inclusive and sustainable.



GRCS ran a consultation in September and October. There were over 100 responses and Friends shared their hopes and fears about a possible new committee structure. Thanks to everyone who responded or who brought the consultation to the attention of others.

Friends do see the need for changes to our structures but GRCS could not find unity on a specific proposal. The group's recommendation to trustees was that this is not the right time to lay down Quaker Life and Quaker Peace and Social Witness central committees in favour of a single committee to oversee our centrally managed work. Trustees have accepted this and will not take any recommendation for structural change to Yearly Meeting in 2025.

Central committees and BYM trustees will be working together to address the need to allocate and prioritise resources better, as well as to explore how to build greater participation in Quaker work by Friends not currently engaged. You can share any ideas for alternative forms of participation by emailing [governance@quaker.org.uk](mailto:governance@quaker.org.uk).

#### Meeting role-holder changes

You should have received an email asking you to update the details of role-holders for your local or area Quaker community for 2025. Just a reminder that the deadline is the 31 December 2024.

If you didn't receive the email or have lost it, the form can be filled in online at: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/2024-role-holder-updates>. Contact [updates@quaker.org.uk](mailto:updates@quaker.org.uk) for information or help.

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Abbreviations: BYM – Britain Yearly Meeting; CCQW – Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales; LM – local meeting; AM – area meeting; YM – Yearly Meeting; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee; FWCC – Friends World Committee for Consultation

Published by Britain Yearly Meeting, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.  
Registered charity no. 1127633

## New Legacy Materials

A new information pack to help Friends considering making a gift in their work for Quaker work will be delivered to all meetings at the beginning of January. The pack includes examples of work funded by legacies, answers to frequently asked questions and quotes from *Quaker faith & practice*. We hope clerks can make Friends in their community aware of this resource. Along with five information packs, posters for your noticeboards will also be included.

Please get in touch with us at [contributions@quaker.org.uk](mailto:contributions@quaker.org.uk) if you would like more information.



## Online worship

A reminder to all Friends with responsibility for spiritual nurture about the advice and guidance about holding online worship. During the Covid-19 pandemic Quaker Life and Woodbrooke worked with Quaker communities to develop guidance and safe practices for holding online worship.

Many Quaker communities continue to hold worship online and it felt time to offer a reminder about the resources and support that are available.

If your meeting makes its online worship opportunity publicly available for people to find this might be a good time to refresh your memory on safe practice.

Visit Woodbrooke's website, [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship/setting-up-mfw](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/worship/setting-up-mfw), where there are guides under the following headings:

- A Quakers guide to online worship and meetings
- Children's Meetings Online – A Simple Guide
- Youth Work Online – A Simple Guide
- A Simple Guide For New Worshippers
- Online and Blended Meeting for Worship for Business

## Youth, Children and Families

### Junior Yearly Meeting 2025

Nominations are now open for Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) 2025! Next year's JYM will take place 23-26 May at the Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire, and is open to those born between 1 September 2006 and 31 August 2009.

Area Meetings can nominate up to 3 guaranteed places, and young people who are not connected with an Area Meeting can also apply for an 'open place' by contacting [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk).

More information, including guidance on nominations and a leaflet for participants, can be found here: [www.quaker.org.uk/events/junior-yearly-meeting-2025](http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/junior-yearly-meeting-2025)

The closing date for nominations is **Sunday 9 February 2025** – we will send out reminders in the New Year.



## Volunteer for national events for children and young people in 2025

Being on a team at a BYM event gives you the chance to be part of a purposeful Quaker community, to develop your skills, to contribute to Quakers in Britain and to make a difference to the lives of children and young people.

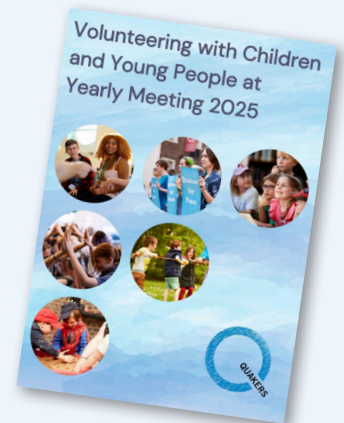
Here are new details about the events being planned for Quaker children and young people in 2025 (see the [2025 Volunteer information booklet](#) for an idea of these roles). Please read the detailed role outline for each event which explains what will be expected of you.



To 'offer service' please complete the form ([online offer of service form](#)).

Even if you have volunteered before you still need to complete the form. This includes stating which events you would like to be on a team for.

Please apply by **Monday 13 January 2025** to volunteer at Yearly Meeting 2025.



*We may not be able to take up every offer of service.*

## Events

### Yearly Meeting 2025

Yearly Meeting 2025 will be rooted in our Peace testimony. This will include considering:

- How do we as Quakers address violence and conflict in our local communities and our nations?
- How do we welcome and accept and nurture the radical peacemaker in ourselves and others?

Bookings open for Yearly Meeting, on **Wednesday 8 January**.

## Grants

### Hope Grants

These are small grants to improve the quality of life of Quaker members and attenders who are unemployed or unable to make a living wage. Friends in financial need can apply for a grant of up to £750 towards items or activities that will improve their quality of life. More information and the application form are available from our website: [www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants](http://www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants).

### Pastoral Care Grants

These grants supplement funds available to pastoral care role-holders locally and can be used in situations of hardship and suffering through old age, or to support women Friends in need. Please contact the Grants Programme Officer ([grants@quaker.org.uk](mailto:grants@quaker.org.uk) 020 7663 1053) for further information and an application form.

## Training and learning



WOODBROOKE

### Applications are now open for the Woodbrooke 2025 Eva Koch Scholarships!

Eva Koch scholarships provide support and time for individuals to work on research, documentation and creative projects focused on the climate crisis, sustainability and climate justice.

Applications close Friday 20 January 2025. Learn more and apply at:

[www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/the-eva-koch-scholarship](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/research/the-eva-koch-scholarship)

#### Clerking Quaker Discernment Online

*Wednesday 19 February 2025, 19:00 - 21:00*

Are you involved in clerking online or blended Meetings for Worship for Business? Come and explore ways to support discernment and Quaker decision-making in a technological context, whether through or over the screen.

Find out more: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/clerking-quaker-discernment-online](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/clerking-quaker-discernment-online)



#### Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care Gathering

*Friday 7 March to Sunday 9 March 2025, Highgate House, Northampton*

This residential weekend provides an opportunity for in-depth discussion and reflection for those of you responsible for eldership or pastoral care. Time together with your tutors and peers will help you gain understanding and confidence in your role.

Find out more: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/spiritual-nurture-and-pastoral-care-gathering](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/spiritual-nurture-and-pastoral-care-gathering)



#### Clerking in a Nutshell

*Saturday 29 March 2025, 10:00-16:00*

Whether you are new to clerking or an experienced Clerk for a Quaker Meeting, Group, or Committee, this one-day course will provide you with clear information about clerking, along with guidance on becoming a more effective Quaker Clerk.

Find out more: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/clerking-in-a-nutshell-2](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/clerking-in-a-nutshell-2)



#### Exploring Quaker Business Method

*Thursday 23 January 2025, 19:00-21:00*

Quaker Business Method is a unique decision-making process at the heart of Quakerism. We will look at the responsibilities of those present including the clerks and unpack terms used in Meeting for Worship for Business, or Business Meetings.

Find out more: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/exploring-quaker-business-method](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/exploring-quaker-business-method)

