

# Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

## Issue 15: Autumn 2025



### Welcome to the autumn issue!

Welcome to issue 15 of Clerks' Update, Autumn 2025. It is a communication channel for clerks of local and area meetings and 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

#### Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) 2026

Nominations for JYM 2026 are now open! Please do all you can to offer this opportunity to young people connected to your Quaker community.

##### About the event

JYM 2026 is a residential event for young people that takes place from **Friday 3 to Tuesday 7 April (Easter weekend)**. JYM is planned and facilitated by an Arrangements Committee of young people appointed by their peers, supported by staff and adult volunteers.



For more information about JYM, there is a useful video including footage of the event (which you may also want to share with young people): [www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoqJk3Vvkmo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AoqJk3Vvkmo)

##### To nominate young people

Please read the nominations guidance and complete the form which can be accessed online at <https://ycf.quaker.org.uk/jym-nomination-form>

**The closing date for nominations is Monday 12 January 2026.** No places can be guaranteed for nominations received after this date.

##### Who is JYM for?

Each Area Meeting can nominate two young people for guaranteed places; you can also nominate additional places. Nominees should be born between **1 September 2007 and 31 August 2010, inclusive**.

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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

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## Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM)

Bookings for the next Young Friends General Meeting event are open! YFGM is a diverse community who meet for fun, faith and friendship shaping the present and future of Quakers in Britain. It'll be at Liverpool Meeting House from **Friday 17 to Sunday 19 October 2025**.

There is no fee to attend! Newcomers get their travel expenses reimbursed and there are funds available for travel bursaries and accessibility requirements.

Register by Friday 3rd October here:

<https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/liverpool-yfgm-october-2025-registrations-open>

To area meeting clerks, we ask if you can support us by appointing a representative from your area meeting to attend YFGM. Afterwards, representatives present their experience and the sense of the gathering back to their Area Meeting (usually in the form of a written report read aloud at the next Area Meeting for Worship for Business). In return, the Area Meeting reimburses their representative's travel costs and donates the amount it cost to have their representative at YFGM. It costs YFGM approximately £75 to house and feed each YFGM attendee for the weekend.

We hope by having a representative for your area meeting, we can support young people to become more involved in their local Quaker community as well as strengthen YFGM's relationship with Quakers of all ages across the nation.

We hope you will uphold this spiritual duty to encourage young Quakers to find community with one another and practise their faith in new and exciting ways.

Please call out to your local meetings and ask any 18–35-year-olds to consider being your YFGM representative.

To learn more about YFGM and what our events are like, visit: <https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/about>

If you'd like to know more about how to support YFGM as an individual, visit the donations page on the website <https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/documents-forms/donate>.

## Welcome and belonging

**Quaker Week 2025:** please do get in touch with us by email at [outreach@quaker.org.uk](mailto:outreach@quaker.org.uk) to let us know about your Quaker Week activities – we'd love to know how they went!

In June we sent out sample packs to all local meetings, which included the materials that we've developed over the last three years. Please email us if you haven't received a pack. If you'd like more, you can [order resources online](#) or email us. We have new 'Stop Starving Gaza' posters which have been produced over the summer, as well as the materials from the sample packs.

You can now register for upcoming outreach network sessions on **Monday 13 Oct, 7.30–8.30pm** and **Monday 3 November, 12.30–1.30pm**.



## Communication with the Quaker Centrally Managed Work

### Hope so!

Have you ever wanted to understand more about how Yearly Meeting and its committees really work? Would you like to get information about roles and committee work that you could get involved in? Do you want an easy way to keep track of upcoming dates for YM? If so, our new quarterly e-newsletter *Hope so!* is for you.

Please use this link to subscribe (and tell all your Friends!):

[www.quaker.org.uk/hopeso](http://www.quaker.org.uk/hopeso)



## Communicating with Meeting for Sufferings and Yearly Meeting

**Meeting for Sufferings will be laid down at Yearly Meeting in May 2026.** The Agenda Planning Committee of Yearly Meeting is working on a new process for the receipt of minutes from Area Meetings and other Quaker communities and will be sharing this with Friends at Yearly Meeting in May 2026.

Until then, Area Meetings can continue to communicate by minute with Meeting for Sufferings.

You can find the current guidance here: [www.quaker.org.uk/mfs-planning](http://www.quaker.org.uk/mfs-planning).

### Notices for treasurers

#### ■ Annual Treasurer Update Zoom Meetings

14, 15 and 22 October 2025, online, times vary

Each year in the autumn the Quakers in Britain Fundraising Team offers an opportunity for Friends to join a session with staff members and the Yearly Meeting treasurer. Join the meeting to find out the latest about BYM finance and the new contribution leaflet. You will be able to find out how to request new fundraising materials and engaging with Friends about money matters.

You can register here for all session at <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/treasurersupdate>.

#### ■ Treasurers Guidance sheets

The treasurers' guidance sheets have been updated in 2025. They form a key part of the resources in support of treasurers. Mirroring the structure of the ACAT handbook they give Quaker specific advice and guidance for treasurers.

Download a copy of the guidance sheets from the Quakers in Britain website at [www.quaker.org.uk/treasurers](http://www.quaker.org.uk/treasurers).



#### ■ Free will writing service

Many people put off writing or updating their will because of cost or perceived difficulty. Quakers in Britain have launched a new partnership with Octopus Legacy to offer the option of using a free will writing service.

Please let Friends in your meeting know they can find out more by going to [www.quaker.org.uk/free-will-writing](http://www.quaker.org.uk/free-will-writing).

## ■ Stories of our work

Please share this digital brochure with Friends in your meeting. From responding to the raid on Westminster Meeting to supporting peacebuilding in Burundi, we hope Friends will be inspired by the work that Quakers in Britain does that is discerned by Friends.

[www.quaker.org.uk/documents/making-an-impact-18-stories](http://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/making-an-impact-18-stories)



## Youth, Children and Families

### Invitation to Volunteer for National Quaker Event 2026

Quakers in Britain is inviting Friends from all parts of the country to offer service supporting the programme of national events for children and young people. This includes Junior Yearly Meeting, Young People @ Yearly Meeting, the Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting and accompaniment for young people at the new continuing Yearly Meeting days.

The team of adult volunteers are essential to making these events run well. You will help to make a real difference to young people's lives!

*"It was really rewarding to support the young people. It was tiring, but I felt really valuable to the team and that the young people appreciated the support."* - Volunteer 2025

If you would like to find out more, please visit the website at [www.quaker.org.uk/volunteercyp](http://www.quaker.org.uk/volunteercyp) where you can also download the new volunteering booklet and apply.

Deadline for applications is 1st December 2025.



### Call out for pictures of children's art and craft

We are looking to bring together pictures of the art and craft produced by young Quakers either as part of their ministry in Children's Meeting for Worship or as expressions of their identity, hopes, dreams and beliefs. If anyone in your Meeting is able to photograph and share these, please encourage them to email pictures to: [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk).



## Children and Young People's work newsletter

Please encourage anyone currently spending time with children and young people in your Quaker community (or interested in this work) to sign up for our monthly newsletter and resource. Journeys in the Spirit newsletter shares stories, opportunities, resources and information from Quakers in Britain around the work being done to include children and young people in our communities. Every month there is a link provided to the Journeys in the Spirit publication which gives activities and ideas for people running children's meeting for worship or interested in all-age worship as part of their meeting. Both are free and easy to subscribe to. Just enter a name and email address here: <http://eepurl.com/dwXumj> or use the QR code in the image.



You don't have to be doing this work to receive the newsletter – just interested!

## Events

### Radical Hearts, Open Minds events

*Various locations and dates (listed below) and online*

Radical Hearts, Open Minds is a series of identical events being held across Britain in the autumn of 2025. They are part of the consultation process about support for Quaker Communities from 2026 to 2030.

■ [Read about the first of the series that was in London on 13 September](#)

Quaker Life is inviting Friends to come prepared to be radical, open, creative, and thoughtful. We will imagine what our Quaker communities could look like into the 2030s and beyond. What support will help us to get there? What is already happening across the country to help us flourish and grow?

The events are open to Quaker connected people of all ages. A full programme for age 3 to 103+ will be available, and 0-2s are very welcome with their adult companion.

You can book to join events on these dates:

- |                          |                           |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| ■ 25 October, Edinburgh  | ■ 15 November, Darlington |
| ■ 8 November, Birmingham | ■ 22 November, online     |

There are details about the events at [www.quaker.org.uk/radical-hearts-open-minds](http://www.quaker.org.uk/radical-hearts-open-minds).



### Meeting House Matters

Meeting House Matters is a network and a series of events that take place throughout the year offering support for Quaker workers (paid and voluntary) and Friends running Quaker premises. It is a space for learning, exploring a range of topics from issues of compliance to good line management. The community and network offer peer support for people in roles that are often done in isolation. The next in person event is at Darlington Meeting House on Tuesday, 21 October. Find out more and register to attend in person on our website, [www.quaker.org.uk/events/mhm-25-darlington](http://www.quaker.org.uk/events/mhm-25-darlington).



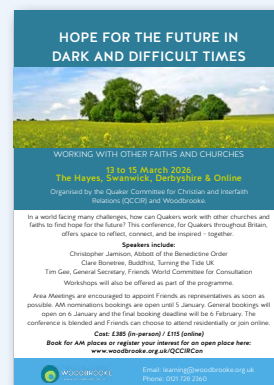
## Hope for the future in dark and difficult times; working with other faiths and churches

Friday 13 March to Sunday 15 March 2026

The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Please appoint a representative from your Area Meeting to attend this conference, organised jointly by Woodbrooke and the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR). The aim of the conference is to support Friends, Area Meetings and Local Meetings in their work with other faiths and churches (QF&P 9.08 – 9.21). Feedback from area meetings' two years ago was that more time was needed to find the right person to attend – hence this early notice. The conference is from **13 to 15 March 2026**. The deadline for registration of AM reps is **5 January**, after which time it will be open to other Friends.

Please see and [share the event flyer](#) and follow the link to further information on the Woodbrooke website [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/QCCIRCon](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/QCCIRCon).



## Training and Learning from Woodbrooke Learning



### Woodbrooke roles courses

Woodbrooke offers a range of courses for Quaker role-holders. You can find all that are on offer by visiting [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/roles](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/roles). Below is a selection of courses running over the next few weeks. Please share them widely within your community.

New Woodbrooke clerking courses will be announced in late October and early November, alongside opportunities on Quaker Roles, Supporting Quaker Communities, and more.

### Simpler Meetings Series

Our Simpler Meetings series, run in partnership with Quakers in Britain, is underway. You don't need to attend every session, each one stands alone, offering a chance to explore a different aspect of Meeting life. Coming up:

- [Starting on Small Meetings](#) – 9 Oct, 19.00–21.15 | discerning what's essential for smaller communities to thrive
- [Starting on Meeting Without a Meeting House](#) – 23 Oct, 19.00–21.15 | discovering how Meetings flourish without buildings

If you joined our Simpler Meetings sessions in 2021, you're also warmly invited to our [Revisited sessions](#), an opportunity to reflect on steps already taken and learn from others.



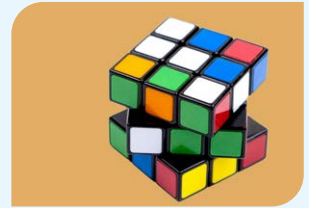
**Business Method Surgery for Clerks and Elders**

*Tuesday 4 November 2025, 19.30–21.00*

Are you a clerk or elder with questions about the Quaker business method or facing particular challenges in your Meeting for Worship for Business? This friendly Q&A session offers space to bring your concerns, explore recurring issues, and reflect on how to uphold right ordering in our meetings.

Find out more:

[www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/business-method-surgery-for-clerks-and-elders-nov](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/business-method-surgery-for-clerks-and-elders-nov)

**Communicating Truthfully, Equally and Effectively**

*Saturday 15 November 2025, 09.30–16:30, Oxford Friends Meeting House*

Come to learn how to better handle conflict of opinion or situations involving 'difficult personalities' in ways that support our testimony to truth and equality. It is an essential skill for Quakers, especially elders, and indeed for us all to co-exist in peace.

Find out more: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/communicating-truthfully-equally-and-effectively](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/communicating-truthfully-equally-and-effectively)

**Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care Gathering**

*Friday 13 March – Sunday 15 March 2026,  
Highgate House (Northamptonshire)*

This residential weekend is an opportunity for in-depth discussion, learning and reflection for Friends with responsibilities of eldership or pastoral care in their Meetings and groups. It is designed to help you grow in 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)



## 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.