



Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting 2025

Britain Yearly Meeting

23/05/25 - 26/05/25

To all Friends everywhere,

We send loving greetings from Junior Yearly Meeting 2025, that was held at the Frontier Centre, Northamptonshire from the 23rd to 26th of May. During our time together, we gathered as a community of 42 young Friends, 6 adult volunteers and 4 staff to discuss the theme of:

“How do we as Quakers create the peace that is needed in ourselves and our communities?”

The theme was at the heart of our Junior Yearly Meeting influencing our actions throughout. We found that peace begins with truly listening to one another. We created safe spaces where everyone felt valued, heard, and accepted.

We opened and closed each day in worship, grounding ourselves in silence and time to reflect. Our sense of community and acceptance allowed ministry to come from the heart and many young people felt comfortable to minister for the first time, and with a degree of openness that they had not felt before.

Our community was further enriched by sharing the site with the Young People at Yearly Meeting (YP@YM), who joined us for several shared worship sessions that deepened our sense of connection across age groups.

We had plenty of opportunities to unwind and have fun throughout the weekend, outward bound activities, at the Frontier Centre were a real highlight, including Raft Building, Kayaking, High Ropes, Bushcraft and Abseiling. We thank the Frontier Centre staff for their work to accommodate us and our needs over the weekend. Our Saturday night disco will be fondly remembered as a joyful opportunity to let loose and celebrate together – complete with a menu of creatively named Quaker mocktails like “Peace on the Beach” and “A Margarita Fell”. Our community was greatly strengthened in free time, allowing people’s connections to form organically through music, craft, conversation and activities. In our joyous open-mic, Friends felt comfortable to share their eclectic talents, ranging from circus to barber shop and - everything in between.

Poignant and emotional moments were shared by our speaker, Mike Jackson, who spoke on his experience in the LGSM (Lesbians and Gays Support the Miners) movement, challenging us to think about protest and action. We were inspired by the influence of his work with peaceful protest. He showed us how simply standing in front of people and facilitating conversations has the power to break down prejudice and create space for peace and unity. His insights inspired us to see that protest can begin with something as simple as a conversation—and that it only takes two people talking to start making a difference.

Hannah Larn helped us to find our truths within ourselves, and gave us a deeper understanding of our own characteristics. Hannah made us think inwardly about our own strengths but also our weaknesses. She discussed that in her experience, placing people with opposing of views together for a period of time broke down barriers, and made people see each other not as opponents, but one and the same - turning conflict into acceptance.

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We were inspired by both speakers, and overwhelmingly felt that despite being young, “we still have skills and capacity to be the change we want to see.” Young Quakers are here and now, we are not just the future.

The bonds we have made with other young Friends are powerful. In a time of political conflict and lack of peace in wider communities, Junior Yearly Meeting is an event where there is a real sense of hope for the future. We invite all Quakers to carry this hope with them into their lives and their communities, knowing that this is a driving force for peace.

We want to end with a quote from our minute: ‘We will continue to strive to show love to everyone in our community that they may not see in other places, even those we disagree with, and seek to find that of God in everyone.’

In friendship and peace,

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting

Hayden Kemp and Esme Robert