

# Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain

At the Yearly Meeting in London at Friends House and online,  
27–30 May 2022

## Friday 27 May: 19:00–20:30, Yearly Meeting Session 1

### Minute 1: Clerks

Central Nominations Committee nominates the following Friends to serve as clerk and assistant clerks for Yearly Meeting 2022, serving until the first session of Yearly Meeting 2023:

Clerk:	Siobhán Haire	North London AM
First Assistant Clerk:	Adwoa Burnley	East Scotland AM
Second Assistant Clerk:	Fred Langridge	Sheffield & Balby AM

These nominations being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

### Minute 2: Worship

We have met in worship and we have heard read from *Quaker faith & practice* paragraph 24.21.

**Minute 3: Welcome to all**

We welcome everyone who is attending any part of Yearly Meeting this year. This year 1934 adults have registered in advance to attend, of whom 1199 have booked to attend online and 735 in person. Of this total number, there are 307 attenders.

**Minute 4: Youth, Children & Families Programmes**

As well as the Friends gathered in this room and online, we expect 62 children and young people to attend this Yearly Meeting. These comprise:

32 0–11 year olds in four groups participating in the Children's Programmes based in Friends House exploring the theme 'Caring and Including'.

27 11–15 year olds taking part in the residential Young People's Programme being held at Felden Lodge, on the theme 'Opening our hearts and minds to transform the world'.

There are 18 adult volunteers working across these programmes, supported by the 4 members of the Quaker Life Youth Children & Families staff team and colleagues. All the youth, children and families programmes' themes reflect the theme of the Yearly Meeting and all expect to attend the final session of Yearly Meeting.

We look forward to joining with these Friends during this weekend and to sharing their ministry and contributions during our Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 5: Committee to Examine Minutes**

We agree that this year, Yearly Meeting will not appoint Friends to the committee to examine minutes, and that we will operate for a third Yearly Meeting without this committee. In the event that this causes us no problems with the clarity of our minutes, we expect to lay this committee down during Yearly Meeting 2023.

**Minute 6: Agenda**

We receive and accept the report of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee in appendix A of *Agenda & notes* and accept the agenda as listed in section 4.

The clerk of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee has introduced the agenda and outlined the main theme for this Yearly Meeting:

- Faith: How do we experience worship, community and witness?
- Community: How can we build Quaker communities that respond to challenges and put faith into action?
- Action: How can we transform thinking and action in Quaker communities and wider society?

**Minute 7: Report of Central Nominations Committee**

Further to minute 6 of Yearly Meeting 2021, Central Nominations Committee brings forward nominations as specified in table 3 of the *Schedule of nominations* as appended to these minutes.

These nominations being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed accordingly.

**Minute 8: Central Nominations Committee: Nominations Required**

We ask Central Nominations Committee to bring nominations to Yearly Meeting 2023 as specified in table 4 of the *Schedule of nominations* appended to these minutes.

**Minute 9: Report of Yearly Meeting Nominating Group**

The Nominating Group appointed at Yearly Meeting 2021 brings forward nominations as specified in table 5 of the *Schedule of nominations* as amended in this meeting and appended to these minutes.

These nominations being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed for service from the end of Yearly Meeting 2022 to the end of Yearly Meeting 2025 (Central Nominations Committee members) and from the end of Yearly Meeting 2022 to the end of Yearly Meeting 2023 (Convenor of the Nominating Group).

**Minute 10: Nominations to the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group (2022–2023)**

Friends are asked to consider nominations for the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group 2022–2023.

The nominations process has been explained. We will return to this later in this Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 11: Appointment of clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and Yearly Meeting treasurer**

Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees bring forward nominations as specified in table 2 of the *Schedule of nominations* appended to these minutes.

These nominations being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed accordingly.

**Minute 12: Eldership and Pastoral Care at Yearly Meeting**

We have heard from Michael Hutchinson (West Scotland Area Meeting) one of the co-conveners of Yearly Meeting Elders, and from Sue Tyldesley (Lancashire Central & North Area Meeting) one of the co-conveners of the Yearly Meeting Pastoral Care Group, about arrangements for eldership and pastoral care over the period of Yearly Meeting.

**Minute 13: Receipt of Quaker Housing Trust report**

We receive and accept the report from Quaker Housing Trust which is presented in appendix B of *Agenda and notes*. We give thanks for the service of those Friends involved during the year.

**Minute 14: Receipt of letters of greeting**

We have received letters of greeting from Ireland Yearly Meeting, from the World Office of Friends World Committee for Consultation, from Friends World Committee for Consultation Europe and Middle East Section, and from Australia Yearly Meeting. These letters have been published on our Yearly Meeting website.

**Saturday 28 May: 9:30–12:00, Yearly Meeting Session 2****Minute 15: Worship**

During our opening worship we have heard read *Quaker faith & practice* paragraph 26.70.

**Minute 16: Testimony**

Part of the testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Barbara Bowman (pages 11 and 12 of *Testimonies*) has been read.

**Minute 17: Faith: How do we experience worship, community and witness?**

We have considered the part of our theme relating to faith, and the prepared ministry offered to us has opened a session of deep sharing. We have been reminded that faith is not a matter of having all of the answers or immediate certainty, but is about questioning, searching, and stilling our souls. We can often be frustrated during this waiting –we yearn for direction, for a nudge, or a boot up the backside. We have been reminded that our faithful waiting is not only a wait for moments of life-changing transformation, it is also about the everyday and the small.

We have heard stories of faith found through human connection, of feeling the spirit in our bodies and through our experience, and of the importance of stepping outside of our everyday circles of connections.

Friends have shared in ministry moments of waiting, of being broken open, of not knowing what the next steps might be, but of knowing that they had to let go of what was currently imprisoning them.

As well as individual faith and waiting, we have been reminded of the importance of the practice of stillness, of waiting, of not knowing, as a community; and the importance of our communities to our spiritual lives.

When we follow the leadings of the spirit, we are empowered to do what is required of us. By giving from our unknowing and our faithfulness, we receive so much. Can we, as a community, give generously into the world from a place of not knowing? Can we trust faithfully that our practices can lead us to change the world?

### **Saturday 28 May: 14:00–17:00, Yearly Meeting Session 3**

#### **Minute 18: Receipt of report of Central Nominations Committee**

We receive and accept the report of Central Nominations Committee presented in appendix C of *Agenda & notes*, giving thanks for the service of those Friends involved during the year.

#### **Minute 19: Receipt of Tabular Statement**

We receive and accept the Tabular statement as at 31 December 2021.

#### **Minute 20: Receipt of report of Quaker Stewardship Committee**

We receive the annual report, including the compliance report, from Quaker Stewardship Committee. The report is at appendix D in *Agenda & notes*, and has been introduced by the clerk of Quaker Stewardship Committee.

We accept this report and give thanks for the work accomplished.

#### **Minute 21: Minute from Junior Yearly Meeting**

We have received minute 1 of Junior Yearly Meeting held 9–12 April 2022, as follows:

Minute 1 from JYM: “As Quakers, how can we transform thought into action?”

As Quakers, how can we transform thought into action?” We believe that Quakerism is a faith grounded in conscientious action and positive change. However, a significant undercurrent of JYM is the question of how best to take action, and the effects of rushing into what we believe is right, without taking the time to listen. We gain strength and direction through the spirit, and it is important for us to base the actions we take in spiritual engagement.

As Quakers, we should take time to discern the root of oppression and inequality in order to be able to carry out effective action, and not get caught up in loud, yet superficial, action. One way this can be done is by streamlining the Quaker business process, and strengthening our faith community, acknowledging that through unity and love we can best seek clarity.

Additionally, as Quakers, we must individually acknowledge the privilege that we have of a platform, and realise that simply through talking on ignored topics we can spark change from one person to the next. We should consider how we can lead by example, but equally, make efforts to not only act, but recognise and amplify the actions of others. When learning about peace workers, we were reminded of the importance of working with communities. We believe it is time to start giving back and using our Quakers networks to do this.

As Quakers, we should not be afraid to interact with political and social issues. Oftentimes, current affairs are the driving force of discourse within our Religious Society, and our society as a whole, and we may feel called to respond. Conversely, we must acknowledge that through speaking politically we have the potential to exclude valuable opinions. Instead, we should be mindful of our tradition of discernment, and listen to those who oppose us with empathy and the aim to understand, remembering that the truth is sometimes hard to hear.

It is important for us to consider that it is more difficult for some to take action than others. It can be quite daunting to speak out against those who we are told are above us, who we are told 'make the rules', and who we are told are important figures. We must use the vast and valuable resources the Quakers have at their disposal to empower, educate, and enable the quieter voices to be heard.

In the last few decades, the Religious Society of Friends has had a lot of conversations about oppression, persecution, and namely racism. While we recognise the important work done by Friends on these matters, we feel that not enough tangible action has been carried out. The participants of JYM are only a small fraction of Quakers in Britain, and yet the power held by us is phenomenal. As a religious society, we have the numbers. We have the power. However, we are running out of time. We must now apply ourselves and create conscientious action and positive change.

Signed, in and on behalf of the Junior Yearly Meeting,

Imi Hills, Clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting 2022

Kit King, Clerk Support"

**Minute 22: Our Quaker communities: grounded in faith and challenging us to act or Quaker communities that respond to challenges and put faith into action**

We are grateful for the powerful prepared ministry that has enabled deep listening and sharing on this second part of our theme.

How do we reconcile our responsibilities to ourselves, but also to our communities, so that neither dominates the other? Are we each committed with unwavering openness to the responsibilities to our communities which may develop from this tension?

We have felt a thread about mentorship and accompaniment running throughout our reflections on community.

Friends, where can we meet in the space between us where we recognise God to be found? Can we truly listen? Can we accompany each other through this journey of life? Can we reach out across our perceived differences and meet and listen and hear each other? We heard a call for such a practice to be made possible.

How can our communities operate in the power to be found beyond shallow relationships, instead deepening into the seeking and fulfilment of love between us?

Can we embrace the loudness and variety of a community of all ages and many different life experiences including mental illness? Community is not an optional extra to our faith but is essential to it. Some of us are lucky enough to have been part of a community of Young Friends that nourished us when all else in the world did not fit. We had the feeling of “this is what life could be”. We are called to make it so, to accompany one another across the generations, delighting in the gifts of all.

In this spirit of accompaniment, and in doing things that make us happy with people we don't yet know, or perhaps don't like, we might find the intimacy we crave.

Even if our needs aren't met, we might trust that in the space between us we can still belong.

**Sunday 29 May: 10:30–11:30, Yearly Meeting – All-together worship****Minute 23: All-together worship**

We have worshipped with those participating in the Children's Programme and Young People's Programme, and, by video connection, with 78 local meetings in their meeting houses and Friends in many other locations around Britain and the world.

We have heard a poem written in a creative writing space by young people aged 11–18:

***Sharing in the silence of us***

*It's secret friend hugs and the hokey-kokey at sunrise.*

*It's silence seeping through the being of me.*

*It's turning the pages (in my mind).*

*It's expanding my views.*

*It's challenging myself: thinking about EVERYTHING.*

*It's stimulating, concentrating, contributing, supporting, reflecting, thinking, feeling, hoping.*

*It's crafting and folding. Making paper cranes for peace.*

*It's listening.*

*It's loving.*

*It's sharing.*

*Where do you see faith?*

*How do you grow community?*

*Can you build trust through action?*

*Sharing in Quaker meeting. The warmth of banana bread brown.*

*Exploring in Quaker meeting. The righteous red of Advices & Queries.*

*Challenged in Quaker meeting. The needs of sustainable green.*

*Listening in Quaker meeting, to the fluttering yellow of an epilogue candle.*

*There's a jittery, nervous hubbub. Awkward bursts of laughter push through the silence of newness. But silence thickens quickly and twists itself into the ropes that tie me to you, into us. The creaky floorboards of being late settle into the same sighs as my neighbour and our breaths synchronise.*

*When I'm engaging with Quakers, I'm uprooting the certainties that smother me.*

*When I'm connecting with Quakers, I feel a peaceful green.*

*When I'm hoping with Quakers, I see past the window pane.*

*When I'm contributing with Quakers, I feel a candle glow of light inside.*



*Our inner love, inner light, can shine here. We can be bright; warmth spreading and connecting us together. After I leave here, I will be the together we made. I will listen to the silence the world offers and hear the silence of us.*

*What do we do and be and find with Quakers?*

- *Hope*
- *Listening*
- *Humour*
- *Feeling safe*
- *Being who we are*
- *Difference*
- *Variety*
- *Sharing*
- *Hope*

*Hope is the ending and the beginning. The last to come out and the start of what we are. Perhaps, in the end, all we can trust, must trust, is that we will have hope. And as long as we do, we will.*

*If you have no hope, how can you believe change is possible?*

*What do you hope for?*

- *Faith*
- *Community*
- *Action*

## **Sunday 29 May: 12:00–13:00, Yearly Meeting Session 4**

### **Minute 24: Testimony**

Part of the testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Lea Adonis Keeble (pages 46 and 47 of the printed version of *Testimonies*) has been read and the portrait, which was part of the testimony, has been shared.

### **Minute 25: The work of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees: receipt of annual report and financial statements**

We receive and accept the Trustees' *Annual report including financial statements* for 2021. The clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and the Yearly Meeting treasurer have introduced this report on the Trustees' work and responsibilities.

We have heard that in 2021 income exceeded expenditure by about £1 million, but also that this was another unusual year, profoundly affected by the pandemic. Contributions from Friends fell compared with the previous year and there was no profit from the Quiet Company to give to the charity. There was a much greater drop in expenditure than planned, a temporary effect of the pandemic.

Looking forward, the three key financial risks for the organisation are inflation, higher operating costs and the possibility of the Quiet Company not returning to profit.

Trustees have decided to move to a balanced budget by 2023, which is faster than previously planned. Trustees are working, with a smaller and more focussed staff team to three strategic priorities:

- Thriving Quaker Communities
- A sustainable and peaceful world
- Simple structures and practices

... with everything distinctively Quaker, integrated and well governed.

We expect every local meeting to be supported by a Local Development Worker by the end of this year, and we now have youth workers in several parts of the country, funded in partnership with area meetings.

We recognise the challenge to staff, in changes to their work and teams. We are grateful for the work of staff past and present during these changes and in settling into their new structures. We have heard about the changes in approach of Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee, and are grateful for the faithful discernment which underpins this.

Trustees will continue to work closely with Meeting for Sufferings on proposals for simplification, in preparation for discernment at Yearly Meeting in session in 2023. We do not yet know where we will be led.

After a great deal of preparatory work, staff attended UN climate change conference (COP26) for a fortnight of intense work, alongside Quaker United Nations Office, Quaker Council for European Affairs, other faith groups, and Friends from across the country. The work made a difference, pushing loss and damage up the agenda.

We have heard in ministry accounts of racism directed to Friends working on our behalf in central committees, in Quaker contexts, and to Friends going about their everyday lives. One of the first steps we can make in anti-oppression is to believe one another's accounts and experiences.

Our Trustees have responsibility as employers for working to counter racism in the workplace; for embedding anti-oppression into all the work of the yearly meeting; and for work with the whole yearly meeting, including support of local and area meetings on anti-racism. Two Trustees have specific responsibility for monitoring this work. Our Trustees are committed to work on acknowledging Quakers' part in the transatlantic slave trade. The responsibility for anti-racist and anti-oppressive work is all of ours, all the time, across the Yearly Meeting.

We are grateful for the service of our Trustees and central committees, and for their faithfulness to Quaker discipline taking difficult decisions. We uphold them in their work.

### Sunday 29 May, 15:00–17:30: Yearly Meeting Session 5

#### **Minute 26: Testimony**

Part of the testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of John Bowers (pages 9 and 11 of the printed version of *Testimonies*) has been read.

#### **Minute 27: Action: learning uncomfortable lessons and taking forward our witness**

We began our discernment by hearing about research into the Quakers of Lancaster meeting in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries, who profited from the enslavement of people, who profited from the labour of those people, and who participated in an economy based on exploitation. We have also heard about the variable and slow response to the concern minuted by London Yearly Meeting in 1727 relating to the enslavement and trading of people, and the unwillingness of Quakers to disown those Friends who continued to profit from enslavement long after this Yearly Meeting had recorded minutes censuring this practice.

Friends, these minutes alone are not enough to change the world! They alone are not even enough to change ourselves. We are a community of Quakers of many backgrounds and racialised experiences. We acknowledge the racialised privilege of many among us, and we value the breadth of experiences and identities among us. Our continued self-examination, discomfort, conviction and commitment is needed.

It is uncomfortable to face the truth, but in our hearts it is a truth we know already. Moving personal testimony in our Yearly Meeting sessions, from Friends who have been subject to racism, confirms this: just as our Quaker forebears were sometimes on the wrong side of history, so we all are complicit in systems of oppression today, including exploitative labour practices in the creation of the technology that enables this blended Yearly Meeting, and in the clothes that we wear. We must acknowledge our complicity in order to begin the work of dismantling those systems.

What then do love and justice require of us?

Love and justice require us to tell the truth, as best we can, about historical and contemporary injustices. We encourage local and area meetings to begin, or continue, work to understand how Quakers and Quaker structures benefited from the transatlantic slave trade.

Love and justice require us to believe those who have the bravery and honesty to share their stories with us.

Love and justice require us to examine our own practices and behaviours, and to work for systemic change.

We have heard that love and justice also require us to consider deeply how the Society of Friends in Britain might make financial and other reparation for our part in the wrongs of the transatlantic slave trade.

### **Monday 30 May, 9:30–12:00: Yearly Meeting Session 6**

#### **Minute 28: Worship**

During our opening worship we have heard read Romans 12:2, and 1 Corinthians 12:25–27.

#### **Minute 29: Epistle**

Part of the epistle from Illinois Yearly Meeting held 27th of sixth month to 3rd of seventh month 2021 has been read.

#### **Minute 30: Yearly Meeting Nominating Group: appointment and nominations required**

Further to minute 10, the following nominations are received for service on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group from the end of Yearly Meeting 2022 until the end of Yearly Meeting 2023:

The following names are brought forward to serve on the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group:

Martin May, Southern Marches AM

Jennifer Barraclough, Oxford & Swindon AM

Jane Short, East Kent AM

Anne Bennett, Lincolnshire AM

Lee Fallows, Staffordshire AM

Lynne Richardson, Banbury & Evesham AM

Being acceptable to the meeting, the Friends nominated are appointed to work with their convener, Eleni Burgess, who was appointed by our minute 9.

We ask the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group to bring nominations to Yearly Meeting 2023 as follows: 6 Friends to serve on Central Nominations Committee from the end of Yearly Meeting 2023 to the end of Yearly Meeting 2026; and 1 Friend to serve as Convener of the Nominating Group from the end of Yearly Meeting 2023 to the end of Yearly Meeting 2024.

**Minute 31: The work of our national representative body: receipt of annual report from Meeting for Sufferings**

We receive the annual report from Meeting for Sufferings on their work in 2021. The report is at appendix E in *Agenda & notes* and has been introduced by the clerk of Meeting for Sufferings.

We are reminded that we all can access the minutes and papers of Meeting for Sufferings via the Britain Yearly Meeting website.

Meeting for Sufferings is keeping Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee alert to the need for space on the agenda of Yearly Meeting 2023 for discernment on simplification and the various reviews in progress which have been described in the Meeting for Sufferings report.

We heard a call for our relationships with the national ecumenical and interfaith bodies to be made more obvious in our Meeting for Sufferings and Trustees reports to Yearly Meeting: we know this work is alive and there is great value in working together!

We have heard that, on balance, the ability for Meeting for Sufferings to meet as blended or totally online has been positive. Friends have also shared their joy at being able to join as community and in committees in person. We acknowledge that for some discerning and giving service online is not easy, while for others it is enabling their participation. We feel it important to acknowledge and give thanks for all that this way of working involves.

We give thanks for the work of Meeting for Sufferings on our behalf.

**Minute 32: Changes to *Quaker faith & practice***

Further to minute 9 of Yearly Meeting 2020, Meeting for Sufferings has reported changes made to *Quaker faith & practice* sections 6.13, 6.17, 6.18, 6.19, 6.22, 7.10, 8.05 and 8.17. We note these minor factual changes that have been made to the online published version of our *Quaker faith & practice*, which is the definitive edition.

**Minute 33: Faith, Community, Action**

We have considered together the question: What is the next pool of light God is asking you to step into?

It is as we share our journeys; as we share what we think we are being called to do next, that we will find those in our community who are walking alongside us, those who can strengthen us with their support. We too may be called to accompany others. We are moving as a people of God.

We have heard ministry about the importance of true listening which pushes us to action. We have also heard encouragement to move forward with acknowledgment and apology for how our wealth has been linked to the enslavement of people. We do not need to have a perfect understanding of or response to history in order to take action. We have

heard that Quakers and others are already taking forward work to understand how reparations might be made for the harms of the transatlantic slave trade, colonialism and economic exploitation, the trauma and impact of which is felt in the lives of Friends and others today. We do not need to begin this work afresh, but can build upon the foundations laid by others and work with partners including other churches and faith groups.

We ask Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, Meeting for Sufferings and area meetings to examine the resources which they hold on trust, and to consider how they, and we, could move forward with this work.

### **Monday 30 May, 14:00–16:00: Yearly Meeting Session 7**

#### **Minute 34: Receipt of the Yearly Meeting Epistle**

The Epistle Drafting Committee appointed by minute 7 has submitted a draft Epistle which has been read and accepted after amendment.

#### **Minute 35: Epistles from other Yearly Meetings**

We have received greetings from Friends around the world via epistles from 32 Yearly Meetings and other bodies, available on the website of Friends World Committee for Consultation and listed in *Testimonies* (page 5).

#### **Minute 36: Testimonies**

The following testimonies to the Grace of God as shown in the life of deceased Friends have been received (pages 8–65 of the printed edition of *Testimonies*) in addition to those from which extracts have been read in our sessions.

Tim Baynes

Howard Boyd

Paul Castle

Bill Chadkirk

Andrew C Clark

Emily Dale (née Mason)

Tony Davies

Jean Elliott

Michael Fellows

Deborah Filgate

David Firth  
Margaret Clare Gardner  
Tony Hall  
Wilfrid Hayler  
Peggy Dashwood Heeks  
Barbara Humphry  
Rosalie Huzzard  
Stella Luce  
Don Mason  
(Doris) Ann Nichols  
Tove Ruth Robson  
David Trevor Shutt  
Jennifer (Jenny) Spence Sorensen  
Jean Stephens  
Len Thornton  
John Veit-Wilson  
Michael Yates

**Minute 37: Visitors from other yearly meetings**

We have welcomed 42 representatives and other visitors from yearly meetings and Friends' groups around the world.

**Minute 38: Inter-church and interfaith and belief visitors**

We have welcomed as visitors to this Yearly Meeting:

Nicola Brady, Churches Together in Britain & Ireland

Mike Royal, Churches Together in England

Ruth Sacks, United Hebrew Congregation, Leeds, and

Kamran Shezad, Bahu Trust in Birmingham

**Minute 39: Meeting for Sufferings: interim membership changes since Yearly Meeting 2021**

We note that a number of appointments to and releases from the membership of Meeting for Sufferings have occurred since Yearly Meeting 2021. Table 6 of the *Schedule of nominations* appended to these minutes records the membership of Meeting for Sufferings, excluding those who serve ex officio, as advised to the Recording Clerk's Office and appointed by Meeting for Sufferings, as of its meeting on 4–6 March 2022.

**Minute 40: Thanks**

We record our thanks to all our staff: those who remain and those who have left, and all those who have served us so well both during this Yearly Meeting and over the past year. We uphold those working on the planning for our Yearly Meeting in 2023.

**Minute 41: Receipt of minutes from the Youth, Children and Families Programmes**

We have received and heard read minutes from the groups of the Youth, Children and Families Programmes of this Yearly Meeting as follows:

**New Shoots (0–1s)**

We, the New Shoots, have formed a small, warm and caring community.

Together, we have learned about ourselves through singing, exploring, climbing, dancing, rolling and sliding. We have cared for each other, laughed together and had cuddles when we have cried. We have been fascinated by the world around us (particularly buses and cement mixers), cared for our dolls, and joined the wider community for games, worship and snacks.

A highlight of our time together was when we joined for others for our silent worship around the colour changing lights.

**Fox Cubs (2–4s)**

Our theme was about where we belong, how we fit in, and being proud of who we are. Firstly we thought about how we need to care for each other and how we feel we belong to our group.

We listened to a story, “No Matter What”, which was about how important it is to feel loved and to feel safe.

We made a den as a safe space. “Soup” was made here, books were read, and it became a quiet place to be alone or with others.



We have worshipped together each day using candles, lights and floating flowers. These quiet times helped us think about ourselves.

We also thought about helping each other. Using our special dolls we learnt that some people do not always have enough food or enough money for heating. We made up a food box with treats for our little doll family.

It was important to have fun, which we did when we played together with the parachute, outside in the park, and on the balcony outside our room. We made new friends and learned about life through imaginary play.

We thought about all of you sitting here in the Light, and what you were doing. We set up a miniature room using little wooden people, and thought about the people sitting at the front.

Today we thought about what is happening in other communities we are part of, and little ways we can help each other.

Being together in person again made us happy and helped us feel part of our Quaker community.

### **Light Explorers (5–7s)**

We are the Light Explorers.

We learned each other's names to build our community.

We agreed how we would be happy together, and we wrote journals so we can remember what we did.

We used the light to calm ourselves down and to worship.

We went to the park to explore and have fun, and to learn about Gandhi and how he used nonviolent action.

We visited the library and learned about refugees.

We joined with the Spiritual Adventurers to hear the Good Samaritan story about kindness and compassion, and had fun playing games.

We drew pictures of bad things, good things and how we can take action to make good things happen, and we learned how a trumpet works!

Sharing has helped make our community.

## **The Spiritual Adventurers (8–11s)**

The community of Spiritual Adventurers has been looking at connections between us and other people around the world. We started getting to know each other playing fun games. We were impressed by Paul Parker's bean bag catching skills. We had lots of fun cooperating with the Light Explorers and playing parachute games. We also did activities like badge making.

The stories that we have read included many connections between us and children fleeing from recent wars and climate change, seeking refuge in Britain. These connections included enjoying the same sports and visiting our friends after school.

The Godly Play retelling of the Good Samaritan challenged us to think of who is my neighbour. A real challenge when we see people suffering by the side of the road.

When we visited the library we looked at old photographs of children being evacuated from the Spanish Civil War or from Germany as part of the Kindertransport. We thought of some ways we could welcome refugees. What would you do?

After reading the poem about "Sharing in the silence of us" we thought again of the ropes that connect us. We took time to hope and created a stained glass window of a brighter alternative world past the window pane.

Having looked at the difficult situations of refugees from all over the world, the Spiritual Adventurers believe we will take away: new friendships; the ability to work together; a new community; the desire to help refugees and lots of hope!

## **Young People's Programme**

Young People's Programme minute 27–30 May 2022

To all friends everywhere,

26 young people, aged 11–15 and with 7 adult helpers met at Felden Lodge in Hemel Hempstead to consider the theme: 'Exploring Equality – Understanding and Valuing Diversity'.

Over the weekend, several thought-provoking workshop leaders challenged us. Helen Minnis, the Swarthmore lecturer, had us thinking about discrimination, starting by asking when we, as young people, have had our ideas belittled or ignored and expanding her theme to include race and gender. Lyndsay Burtonshaw split us into smaller groups to think about sexism and the assumptions we all too easily make, and to talk about gender diversity. Jo Baynham showed us that slavery still existed in the UK and in the clothes we wear, though it was often hidden. Ellis Brooks drew some of these strands together in his talk on Global inequality and justice.

Our three base groups gave us the opportunity to discuss these issues further, play games and get to know each other better.

We also had lots of opportunities for fun over the weekend, competing in challenges, quizzes and group activities outdoor, such as rounders, capture the flag, tree climbing, outdoor sports and a large version of hide and seek. We spent time doing a sports day that included an egg and spoon race without eggs. Indoors, we have made friendship bracelets, painted pebbles and iced biscuits. We were also able to entertain each other on Sunday evening and share our many talents, from music to origami.

We have had a full on weekend, laughing, talking, playing, eating and reflecting. We have had our own worship times, indoors and out, using aids to focus our worship such as quotes or pebbles. We also joined the “all-together worship” – an all-age national blended meeting for worship on Sunday, ending with response activities using art, collage and journaling.

We have learnt to reflect on and question what we thought we knew about equality in our history, our society and the life-affirming value of diversity and equity. Over the course of the weekend, we enjoyed opening our hearts to each other and to the issues in our world and we feel better equipped to take action on the issues that we care about.

Signed in and on behalf of YPP,

Scott Denmead, Jocelyn Filtness and Laura Lee

#### **Minute 42: Epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting**

We have received the epistle of Junior Yearly Meeting which has been read by Imi Hills, clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting, and Kit King, clerk support of Junior Yearly Meeting, as follows:

To all Friends everywhere,

Between the 9th and 12th of April 2022, 53 participants and 11 adult volunteers gathered at the Frontier Centre in Northamptonshire, for 4 days of inward and outward reflection on the theme “Compassionate listening and spiritual engagement: How can we strengthen our faith community to make space for action?”. This year's JYM felt incredibly special, as after two years of COVID-19 preventing an in-person event, many of us felt spiritually and socially untethered.

During JYM, it became clear that Quakerism is a faith grounded in conscientious action and positive change. However, a significant undercurrent of our discussion was the question of how best to take action, and the effects of rushing into what we believe is right, without taking the time to listen. We explored this further in our theme sessions and workshops led by the Arrangements Committee, Helen Minnis, Teresa Parker, Ellis Brooks, Hannah Larn, James McCarthy, Paul Parker, and Olivia Hanks. These sessions were engaging, insightful and, at times, challenging for participants, but allowed us to deeply engage with the theme.

Throughout the weekend we were kindly joined by several guests, all of whom took part in discussions, sessions and social time, bringing with them their own unique views and testimonies. This included Caroline Hayman, Martin Wall and Suze Lidbury. We give

thanks to Michael Preston for photographing the event, and to the ecumenical guests for their presence at JYM which allowed us to strengthen our relationships with other churches.

Many participants commented that the most important element of JYM was the warm and supportive community that we created. Participants, most of whom had never been to JYM before, were able to form new relationships, connect, and deepen existing friendships. This was enabled by the regular meetings of base groups, social events like the Eggstravaganza, and the provision of a social space for free time. From the 1000 piece jigsaw, to 'wide games', to sharing meals, participants were able to truly get to know one another, as friends and as Quakers. We were also able to utilise the outdoor facilities provided by the venue in activities such as archery, kayaking, and climbing, which allowed us to enjoy the fresh air and the sunny weather.

Our days began and ended with periods of worship in which we reflected on the day's events and discussions, achieving a sense of calm, and communal spirituality. We held space for one another in worship sharing, contemplated visual and spoken prompts, and heard moving ministry and readings. A highlight was the bonfire on the final night, which provided a touching goodbye filled with ministry from a deeply thankful and loving community. It's been a busy, fun, and often enlightening event which has allowed us to cover a range of themes and ideas, all of which were powerfully channelled into the minute, which addressed the question: "As Quakers, how can we transform thought into action?" We have all left this event with a stronger sense of who we are and what we stand for, and critically, when to act and when to listen. We truly hope that the rest of Britain Yearly Meeting will listen to the suggestions voiced in our thoughtfully produced minute with open hearts and minds.

As Quakers, we should listen to each other's testimonies with empathy and the aim to understand, remembering that the truth is often hard to hear. We feel that no more time should be wasted and we must act upon the issues that we are merely talking about. To quote our minute, "one way this can be done is by streamlining the Quaker business process, and strengthening our faith community, acknowledging that through unity and love we can best seek clarity." While we recognise that change is an ongoing process, we want to emphasise that it is a process that must continue.

Signed in and on behalf of Junior Yearly Meeting 2022

Imi Hills, Clerk of Junior Yearly Meeting 2022

Kit King, Clerk Support

### **Minute 43: General Epistle**

The General Epistle approved by our minute 34 has been read by the clerk. It reads as follows:

**Epistle of Britain Yearly Meeting, 27 to 30 May 2022**

We send loving greetings to Friends everywhere.

Friends gathered for Yearly Meeting at Friends House in London, Hemel Hempstead and online. Faith in action meetings took place online in the previous week.

Amid the challenges of the climate emergency, wars in Europe and elsewhere in the world, a global pandemic, and a cost of living crisis, it has been important to address the interwoven strands of faith, community and action. All three are necessary – we are challenged to explore how our faith connects us with one other and how we act in the world.

Ministry is rooted in our worship and faith. We have tried to listen in a generous and a hopeful way, open to new learning and trusting in the Spirit amongst us.

The sheer size of this Yearly Meeting was an indication of the possibilities of blended worship. The 'All Together Worship' on Sunday brought the face-to-face presence of over 200 Friends into one community with 78 meetings and 290 individuals online, and other Friends joining in spirit. We heard gratitude from those who were only able to be with us because of the online facility. Children 11 and under had programmes in Friends House whilst young people 11 and over met in Hemel Hempstead. Junior Yearly Meeting met earlier in the year.

We are all on a faith journey, sometimes lit up by transformational experiences, but we depend on quiet waiting on God for the nudges and shoves that lead us in new and urgent directions. We heard passionate calls to 'let go' and trust the Spirit to make clear where we will be led. We need to be ready to listen deeply and to live in the discomfort of not knowing but moving forward in faith.

In a healthy community there is always someone to help us up with a tender hand. Young adult Friends called for cross-generational conversations and accompaniment. We heard heart-warming accounts of community togetherness, including support for those with difficulties due to neurodivergence or mental health problems. However, although we pride ourselves on being good at building peace for others, we sometimes find it hard to do this within our own communities.

Some have welcomed returning to meeting face to face. Others embrace online communication as enabling and inclusive; we are discovering new ways to build Quaker communities. We recognise that the life of our Meetings depends on reaching out into the world and searching for new insights. Are our Quaker communities models for what we want to see – places of openness, active listening, deep communication and connection? We cannot offer this vision to others without healing ourselves.

Many of us were saddened and ashamed to hear personal experiences of racism: descriptions of an event where none of the bystanders on the street supported the Friend, and another within the context of service on a Quaker central committee. A

necessary first step against oppression is to believe one another's accounts and experiences.

We were given powerful evidence of Quaker engagement in the transatlantic slave trade. It is important to understand and tell the truth about the past – it is even more important to recognise its enduring consequences: the trauma and impact on lives in the present.

We must start making changes now and for the future: “planting flowers as well as pulling up weeds.” Britain Yearly Meeting resolves to build on our decision last year to be an anti-racist church, working with partners, including churches and faith groups, to look at ways to make meaningful reparations for our failings. We need to take urgent action as individuals, in our local, area and yearly meetings.


“What do love and justice require of us?”

Signed in and on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting

Siobhán Haire, Clerk

#### **Minute 44: Concluding Minute**

There being no further business for the Yearly Meeting, we separate, hoping to meet again at Friends House, London, from 28 April to 1 May 2023, should nothing occur to prevent.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Siobhán Haire". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Siobhán Haire

# Schedule of nominations

## Nominations and Releases being brought to Yearly Meeting 2022

Table 2. Report from Britain Yearly Meeting Trustee Nominations Group

Nominated (/renominated):

Position	Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Clerk of Trustees (for re-appointment for one further year)	Caroline Nursey *	London West AM	1 January 2023 to 31 December 2023
Yearly Meeting Treasurer	Paul Whitehouse	Bristol Area Meeting	1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025

Note: Minute 9 of Yearly Meeting 2020 asked Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to bring to Yearly Meeting nominations of Friends to serve as Clerk of BYM Trustees and Yearly Meeting Treasurer and that these appointments will normally be made for a term of three years. The nomination brought for Clerk to Yearly Meeting is for one year this time. Trustees expect to bring a three-year nomination for 2024-26 to Yearly Meeting in 2023.

Table 3. Report from Central Nominations Committee

Central Nominations Committee brings forward the following nominations to Yearly Meeting Gathering 2021:

### a) Appointments for this Yearly Meeting:

#### Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

Nominated (/renominated):

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Yvonne R Estop Wood *	Thaxted AM	from Yearly Meeting 2022 to Yearly Meeting 2025
Laura Kerr *	Sheffield & Balby AM	
Gill Reid *	West Scotland AM	
Kate Macdonald	West Wiltshire & East Somerset AM	

**Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee**

Arrangements Committee serve during Yearly Meeting with the Yearly Meeting clerks and representative Friends from Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee. To serve at this Yearly Meeting, nominate:

Name	Meeting	Appointed to serve:
Gill Sewell	North London AM	at this Yearly Meeting
Linda Wood	Luton & Leighton AM	

**Yearly Meeting Elders**

To serve during Yearly Meeting 2022, nominate (\*renominated):

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Caro Kelly *	Lancashire Central & North AM	during Yearly Meeting 2022
Ruth McTighe *	Central Yorkshire AM	
Wendy Sender *	Bournemouth Coastal AM	
Peter Squire *	Devon AM	

**Yearly Meeting Elders (cont.)**

Appointed by Meeting for Sufferings on behalf of Yearly Meeting:

Name	Meeting	Appointed to serve:
Fred Ashmore	Kingston & Wandsworth AM	during Yearly Meeting 2022 and 2023
Barbara Davey	East Scotland AM	
Catherine James	North Wales AM	
Leasa Lambert	North London AM	
Carolyn Sansom	South Wales AM	
Patsy Wilson	Northumbria AM	

To serve as co-convenor for Yearly Meeting 2022 and 2023, alongside existing convenor, nominate:

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Barbara Davey	East Scotland AM	for YM 2022 and YM 2023, alongside existing convenor



**Yearly Meeting Epistle Drafting Committee**

To serve during Yearly Meeting 2022, nominate (\*renominated):

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Philip Gross	South Wales AM	during Yearly Meeting 2022
Jane Harries	South Wales AM	
Jennifer Kavanagh	London West AM	
Mark Kibblewhite	Dorset & South Wiltshire AM	
Phil Lucas	South East Scotland AM	
Jill Maguire	East Cheshire AM	

To serve as convenor, nominate:

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Christine Habgood-Coote	Sussex West AM	during Yearly Meeting 2022

**b) Appointments and other changes to committees and groups for work outside Yearly Meeting in session:****Book of Discipline Revision Committee**

To serve until the work is complete, nominate:

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
<b>Stevie Kray</b>	South Wales AM	until the work is complete

**Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees**

Nominated (/renominated):

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Danielle Walker-Palmour *	York AM	from 1 January 2023 to 31 December 2025
Kate Gulliver *	West Scotland AM	
Catherine Brown	Hampshire & Islands AM	

**Clerks of Central Nominations Committee**

Nominated (\*renominated):

Position	Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Co-clerk	Lucy Parker*	Norfolk & Waveney AM	from YM 2022 to YM 2023
Co-clerk	Fran Hicks*	West Somerset AM	

**Yearly Meeting Pastoral Care Group**

Nominated (\*renominated):

Position	Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Clerk	Matthew Callow	Mid Thames AM	from the end of YM 2022 to YM 2025

**Table 4. Central Nominations Committee: nominations required**

Nominations to be brought to Yearly Meeting 2023

Committee	Nominations required	For service
Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee	6	From the end of YM 23 to YM 26
Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee	2	To serve at YM 23
Yearly Meeting Elders	4	To serve at YM 23 and YM 24
Yearly Meeting Epistle Drafting Committee	5-7 (1 as convenor)	To serve at YM 23
Yearly Meeting Pastoral Care Group	2	
Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees	4	1 January 2024 to 31 December 2026

## Table 5. Report of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group

### Central Nominations Committee

Nominated (\*renominated):

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Gill Greenfield *	Mid Somerset AM	from the end of YM 22 until the end of YM 25
David Lewis *	Hampshire & Islands AM	
Amer Syed	North Scotland AM	
David Jenkins	Northumbria AM	
Keith Braithwaite	East Cheshire AM	
Heather Mellars	Northumbria AM	
Frances Prestidge	Hertford & Hitchin AM	

### Released from service:

Name	Meeting
Ade Couper	Worcestershire & Shropshire AM
Meri Goad	East Scotland AM

### Convener of the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group

Name	Meeting	Nominated to serve:
Eleni Burgess	East Cheshire AM	from the end of YM 22 until the end of YM 23

**Table 6. Meeting for Sufferings appointments****Interim membership changes since Yearly Meeting Gathering 2021**

For information, we record here the membership of Meeting for Sufferings, excluding those who serve ex officio, as advised to the Recording Clerk's Office and appointed by Meeting for Sufferings as at its final meeting on 4-6 March 2022

<b>Area Meeting</b>	<b>Representative</b>	<b>Alternate</b>
<b>Banbury &amp; Evesham AM</b>	Lynne Richardson	Susie Tombs
<b>Bournemouth Coastal AM</b>	Anthony Woolhouse	Kate Mellor
<b>Brighouse West Yorkshire AM</b>	Rosemary Daley	Cathy Urqhart
<b>Bristol AM</b>	Dawn Snape	Kerren Davey
<b>Cambridgeshire AM</b>	Dorothy Ball	Hilary Mansfield
<b>Central England AM</b>	Claire Bowman	Margot Williams
<b>Central Yorkshire AM</b>	David Bunney	David Cook
<b>Chilterns AM</b>	Anthony Philpott	Sheila Stevenson
<b>Cornwall AM</b>	Les Hereward	
<b>Craven &amp; Keighley AM</b>	Chris Hart	Lois Lodge
<b>Cumberland AM</b>	Robert Pritchard	Glenn Tomkinson
<b>Devon AM</b>	Judy Thurgood	Juliet Morton
<b>Dorset &amp; South Wiltshire AM</b>	Rachel Celia	Tess James
<b>East Cheshire AM</b>	Sally Mendham	Keith Braithwaite
<b>East Kent AM</b>	Danny Chesterman	Caroline Howden
<b>East Scotland AM</b>	Barbara Davey	Robert Thompson
<b>General Meeting for Scotland</b>	Ann Kerr	Mike Shilson
<b>Gloucestershire AM</b>	Jane Mace	Pat Beard
<b>Hampshire &amp; Islands AM</b>	Jane Wilde	Catherine Brown
<b>Hardshaw and Mann AM</b>	Richard Melling	Diana Jeater
<b>Hertford &amp; Hitchin AM</b>	Kathy Hindle	Ian Chandler
<b>Ipswich &amp; Diss AM</b>	Helen Kennedy	Sally Sparrow
<b>Kendal &amp; Sedbergh AM</b>	Ann le Mare	Ester Sloggett
<b>Kingston &amp; Wandsworth AM</b>	Keith Walton	Jo Impey
<b>Lancashire Central &amp; North AM</b>	Jon Martin	Helen Rhodes

<b>Leeds AM</b>	Veronica O'Mara	
<b>Leicester AM</b>	Chris Myers	Anthony Gimpel
<b>Lincolnshire AM</b>	David Howard	Christopher Rose
<b>London West AM</b>	Nim Njuguna	Victoria Bentley
<b>Luton &amp; Leighton AM</b>	Neil Morgan	Simon Colbeck
<b>Manchester &amp; Warrington AM</b>	Hilary Tucker	Stephen Johnson
<b>Meeting of Friends in Wales</b>	Deborah Rowlands	Angela Arnold
<b>Mid Essex AM</b>	Brian Wardrop	Susan Garratt
<b>Mid Wales AM</b>	David Jones	Carol Satterthwaite
<b>Mid-Somerset AM</b>	Andy Hall	Christopher Greenfield
<b>Mid-Thames AM</b>	Jenny Gordon	Jean Scott-Barr
<b>Norfolk &amp; Waveney AM</b>	George Gawlinski	Sarah Bean
<b>North East Thames AM</b>	Jane Natai	Jenny Brand
<b>North London AM</b>	Arthur Charlton	Anna Sharman
<b>North Scotland AM</b>	Sue Horne	Mary Dower
<b>North Somerset AM</b>	Shella Parry	Shena Deuchars
<b>North Wales AM</b>	Helen Still	Ros Morley
<b>North West London AM</b>	Emily Milner	Tony D'Souza
<b>Northamptonshire AM</b>	Sue Jenkins	Elaine Smith
<b>Northumbria AM</b>	Barbara Adshead	Faith Lydiard
<b>Nottinghamshire &amp; Derbyshire AM</b>	Maggie Lightowler-Cook	Nicky Hoskin-Stone
<b>Oxford &amp; Swindon AM</b>	Jennifer Barraclough	Tina Leonard
<b>Pendle Hill AM</b>	Pip Swancott	Ben Pink Dandelion
<b>Pickering &amp; Hull AM</b>	Paul Wicks	Chris Fellowes
<b>Sheffield &amp; Balby AM</b>	Emma Norminton	Mark Lallemand
<b>South East London AM</b>	Cherry Simpkin	Ruth Owens
<b>South East Scotland AM</b>	Jane Kelly	Katrina McCrea
<b>South London AM</b>	Janet Veitch	Eva Kalmus
<b>South Wales AM</b>	David Harries	Carole Rakodi
<b>Southern East Anglia AM</b>	Robert Parkes	Ann Kurra

<b>Southern Marches AM</b>	Ann Davison	Jan Arriens
<b>Staffordshire AM</b>	Linda Skellam	Richard Ashwell
<b>Surrey &amp; Hampshire Border AM</b>	Ivan Hutnik	Gregory Valatin
<b>Sussex East AM</b>	Peter Aviss	Susan Walton
<b>Sussex West AM</b>	Christine Habgood-Coote	Sue George
<b>Swarthmoor (South West Cumbria) AM</b>	Robert Straughton	Bill Shaw
<b>Teesdale &amp; Cleveland AM</b>	Mary Wilkinson	David Simpson
<b>Thaxted AM</b>	Sue Moloney	Margaret Somerville
<b>Wensleydale &amp; Swaledale AM</b>	Edna Rossiter	Ian Hunter Smart
<b>West Kent AM</b>	John Spencer	
<b>West Scotland AM</b>	Michael Hutchinson	Elaine Millar
<b>West Somerset AM</b>	Fran Hicks	Ali Dominy
<b>West Weald AM</b>	Kim Hope	Mariu Hurriaga.
<b>West Wiltshire &amp; East Somerset AM</b>	Jane Stephenson	Ruth Cook
<b>Wirral &amp; Chester AM</b>		Na'amat Little
<b>Worcestershire &amp; Shropshire AM</b>	Penny Osborne - Gajewski	Paul Mountain
<b>York AM</b>	Barbara Penny	John Bourton
<b>YFGM</b>	Alexandra Boliver-Brown	Rachael Booth