

Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

Issue 10: Summer 2024



Welcome to the summer issue!

Welcome to this summer 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.

Information for Quaker clerks

Yearly Meeting 2024 – Preparation

Yearly Meeting 2024: Continuing work on our structures

One of the items coming to Yearly Meeting this time is a proposal to lay down Meeting for Sufferings and hold Yearly Meeting four times per year – this would be called a continuing Yearly Meeting and would be open to all Friends. This proposal has been endorsed by Meeting for Sufferings and is now coming to Yearly Meeting for a decision.

The Friends working on the preparation documents for Yearly Meeting have found there is a lot of interest in this topic and they have prepared some Frequently Asked Questions – you can read those here www.quaker.org.uk/documents/yearly-meeting-2024-faq-continuing-our-work-on-quaker-structures. Do keep an eye on the section of www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents called 'Continuing work on our structures' as we expect to add more content in the run up to Yearly Meeting.

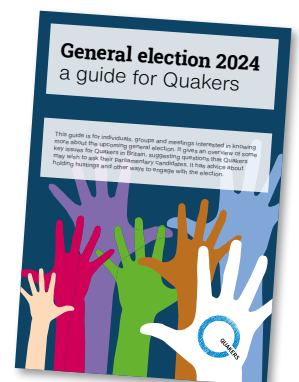
If you have specific questions feel free to contact Michael Booth (michaelsb@quaker.org.uk) or Sarah Donaldson (sarahd@quaker.org.uk) who will try to help.

General Election 2024

A general election has been called for 4 July 2024.

BYM has published general election materials last on the website at www.quaker.org.uk/vote.

You can find and download electronic copies of the election guide, template email to candidates, and children and young people's packs.



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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Outreach

Quaker Week 2024

This year **Quaker Week** will be **Sat 28 Sept to Sun 6 Oct**, with the same theme as last year of **'Simple. Radical. Spiritual.'** There will be some new materials, as well as those we offered last year. We're experimenting with having the same theme for two years running. We'll see if it's successful, but this campaign was very warmly welcomed by Friends, generally. We feel there's still more we can do to explore what those words capture about Quakerism and how they speak to newcomers.



The link to order materials will be live from 1 July and shared in Quake! and through other networks at that time. Orders placed by 31 July will have guaranteed delivery by early September.

Visit www.quaker.org.uk/outreach where details of Quaker Week 2024 will be updated.

George Fox 400 Anniversary

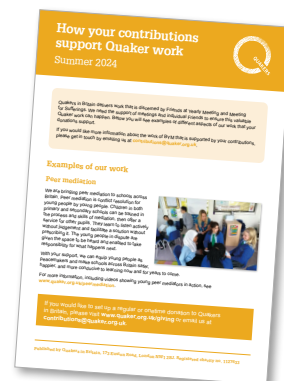
This year celebrates the 400th anniversary of the birth of George Fox. There is supporting material at www.quaker.org.uk/george-fox-400. Resources include collages and logos for use by meetings when running their own GF400 events.



New Giving resource

On the suggestion of the Giving Advocates Group (Friends who are interested in encouraging giving to support the Society of Friends), the BYM fundraising team has produced a short resource giving some examples of the central work that is supported by your contributions. Please share this with Friends in your meeting – in notices, in your newsletters and on your noticeboards.

You can download the resource *How Your Contributions Support Quaker Work* at: www.quaker.org.uk/documents/how-your-contributions-support-quaker-work



Youth, Children and Families

Youth, Children and Families - Support for Meetings

- Support through network meetings (every third Thursday of the month) can be booked at: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/childrens-meeting-network>.
- Monthly network to support those doing work with young people (11-18) including summer event coordinators at: <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/quaker-youth-work-support>.
- Resources for use in Children's Meetings can be found at: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/resource-categories/journeys-in-the-spirit.
- Information about the Giant Online Children's Meeting can be found at: www.quaker.org.uk/online-meetings-cyp.

Events

Yearly Meeting 2024

All-together worship – Sunday 28 July, 10:30am to 11:30am

This will be a huge meeting for worship, taking place across Britain in homes, Quaker Meeting Houses and other meeting places and at Friends House. We will come together as a single loving, inclusive and all-age community across Britain Yearly Meeting.

As well as individuals joining online from home, local Quaker communities are invited to join. Worship will start with a short guided activity which will also be available on YouTube. This will be on the theme of “using our senses to centre into stillness”. Meetings will then have choice of staying together on Zoom, or continuing to worship separately as a local meeting. During this period of worship, elders will call Friends to give spoken ministry as led, including from local meetings, individuals joining online, and those in Friends House.

We hope to make available a list of participating meetings so that those wishing to attend in person can do so wherever they are in the country. Resources to support this all age worship will be available from 1 July.

If your Quaker community wishes to join all together worship online, please [see details and register here by 11 July](#).

If individuals wish to join all-together worship from home, please [register for Yearly Meeting](#).

Please look at share the information below about Yearly Meeting bursaries.

Training and learning

New Woodbrooke Courses!

Woodbrooke has recently launched its new programme of courses for the second half of 2024! This wide range of offerings covers topics such as Quaker Roles, Social Justice, Spirituality, Quaker History, and much more.

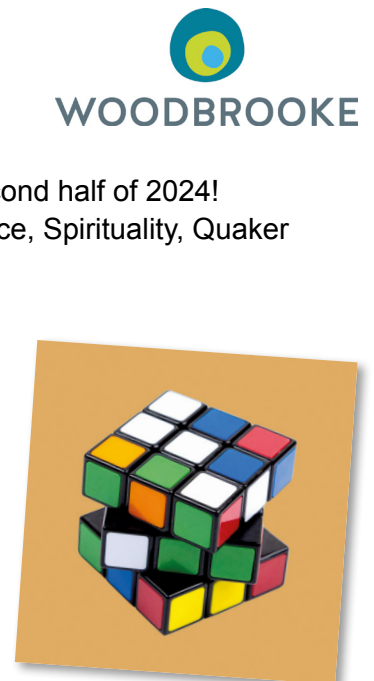
Explore the full programme at: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses.

Business Method Surgery

First Tuesday of the Month, 19:00-20:30 (UK time)

Do you feel your Meeting for Worship for Business isn't running as smoothly as you'd like? Whether you have specific issues or would like to explore issues more generally, this Woodbrooke session is for you!

Book your place for the first session (Tuesday 2 July):
www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/business-method-surgery-july.



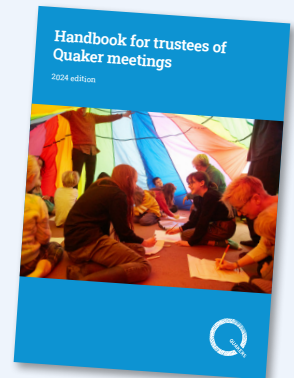
Trustee Update: New Handbook

Wednesday 28 August, 19:00-21:00 (UK time)

Are you a serving Quaker Trustee? Take a walk through the new [Quaker trustees handbook](#) with its editor and Woodbrooke staff tutor Rhiannon Grant to find out how this updated and improved resource can support you further in your role.

Book your place:

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/trustee-update-new-handbook.



Grants

Yearly Meeting Bursaries

Friends shouldn't be put off coming to Yearly Meeting because they can't afford it. If a meeting can't cover all the costs for Friends attending then there is help available from the bursary fund. The money can cover any costs that would prevent Friends from attending. Application forms can be requested by ticking a box on the Yearly Meeting booking form or by emailing grants@quaker.org.uk.

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.

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 020 7663 1053) for further information and an application form.