

Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

Issue 13: Spring 2025



Welcome to the spring issue!

Welcome to this spring edition of Clerks Update and the first in 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.

Information for Quaker clerks

Racial Justice Network

The Racial Justice Network enables Friends working on racial justice to meet, discuss our work, understand what is being done, and support those who feel isolated. The network meets each month on Zoom, usually on the 2nd Tuesday at 12pm to 1pm. For more information including the zoom link, please email, antiracism83@gmail.com.

Please find attached details of the Quaker Racial Justice Network to circulate and perhaps print out as a poster for your noticeboard if you have one.



Quaker faith & practice

Chapter 16 Quaker marriage procedure has been updated, primarily due to the introduction of marriage schedules in England and Wales. This will shortly be published as a separate document. It will replace the existing separate document, which was issued after marriage equality was achieved in 2014.

The current text of *Quaker faith & practice* (including the new revised text of Chapter 16) is available online here <https://qfp.quaker.org.uk>.

Find-a-Meeting entry changes on the BYM website

Please remember to let us know whenever there are any changes to the time, venue or contact details for your meeting for worship.

You can check your meeting's entry at www.quaker.org.uk/meetings.

Send any changes to updates@quaker.org.uk.

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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Governance Gold and other resources for clerks

■ Governance Gold

Governance Gold is a series of publications offering guidance to clerks on a range of areas of Quaker Church Governance. The current set was produced between 2014 and 2022 and although it has not been added to recently, the information is still relevant. It is hosted on the Quakers in Britain website on the pages that have resources and support for Quaker decision making: www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-decision-making.



■ Quaker faith & practice

As well as the online version of [Quaker faith & practice](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qfp) there is a set of resources that support aspects of Church Governance. Look online at www.quaker.org.uk/qfp to find guidance, advice and forms that support clerks in their role.

■ Quaker communities website

Quaker Life has been doing work on its pages of the Quakers in Britain website. We are trying to move from finding support based on role-holders, to topic or themed support areas. You can access it using the 'Quaker communities' tab on the navigation bar at the top of every page or directly using the link: www.quaker.org.uk/communities.

■ Contacting Quaker Life (who offer support to Quaker Communities)

If you can't find what you need on the Quakers in Britain website you can always get in touch directly by email, supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk.

Taking care online and being cyber-aware

Being safe online can be a challenge, especially for small charities and organisations which may include Quaker area meetings and other Quaker charities. We have a shared responsibility to look after individuals' data and do our best to take care of Quaker resources and be aware of scams and fraud.

Preventing Charity Fraud is an organisation that supports small charities and other organisations to protect their assets and raises awareness of threats they may encounter. **Charity Fraud Awareness Week** is one of the campaigns they offer to help support small organisations.

There is free online training (linked below) provided by the **National Cyber Security Centre** aimed at charity staff and volunteers, or role-holders. The online training covers the following topics:

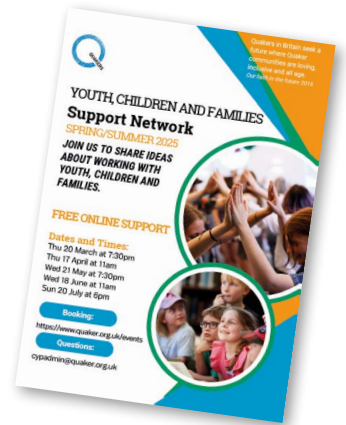
- Defending yourself against phishing
- Creating strong passwords
- Securing your devices
- Reporting incidents

<https://www.ncsc.gov.uk/training/v4/Top+tips/Web+package/content/index.html#/>

Youth, Children and Families

Youth, Children and Families Work Support Meetings

Please share the details of our upcoming support network meetings to anyone who currently works with youth, children and families as part of your Quaker community. These monthly meetings are an opportunity to share ideas, get support and discover new resources. [Monthly YCF network booking form](#).



Young Adult Focus Group

We are currently seeking to consult with young adults around what provision BYM offers to this group. If you have any young adults that may be interested, please help them to sign up by sharing this link, <https://ycf.quaker.org.uk/2025-yaq-focus-group>.

Children and Young People’s Programmes at Yearly Meeting

The programme for children that runs alongside Yearly Meeting is always popular and offers a great way for young Quakers to get to know each other, have fun and explore Quakerism.

If you know someone who is considering attending Yearly Meeting with a child, please encourage them to visit our website: www.quaker.org.uk/ym/0-18s.



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Events

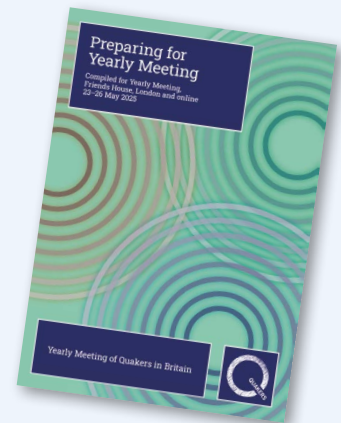
Yearly Meeting 2025

Yearly Meeting 2025 Preparation Sessions

Please encourage Friends to attend Yearly Meeting 2025 which will be rooted in our peace testimony and please draw their attention to ways they can prepare for Yearly Meeting.

Alongside the brief document [Preparing for Yearly Meeting](#) a range of online sessions are available a month before yearly meeting, exploring the themes and promoting the work of the yearly meeting and other Quaker organisations.

To join preparation for Yearly Meeting and the online fringe week, Friends should register by Sunday 6 April, Please register at www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings.



Yearly Meeting and Woodbrooke

Additionally, Woodbrooke is running several sessions and courses that are related to this topic that will help Friends to prepare for Yearly Meeting. For full information and to book to attend these sessions, please see www.woodbrooke.org.uk/ym25



Relevant courses are running until April.

All-together worship

Sunday 25 May, 10:30am to 11:30am

We invite your worshipping community – online or from your meeting place – to join what could be the world's largest Quaker meeting in our all-together worship. 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.

Worship will start with prepared ministry. There will be some suggested activities to help friends of all ages reach and remain in 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 at the start of May.

If your Quaker community wishes to join all together worship online, please see details, including the link to register at www.quaker.org.uk/ym/programme.

If individuals wish to join all-together worship from home, please register for Yearly Meeting at www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings.



Yearly Meeting website

For more information about this year's event please encourage Friends to go to the Yearly Meeting website: www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Quaker Earthcare all-age Gathering: Nurturing Radical Worship and Witness

Friday 24 to Monday 27 October 2025, The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire, DE55 1AU

Living Witness, Quakers in Britain, Quaker Support for Climate Action and others offer this gathering for Friends hoping to root their Earth crisis response in Quaker faith, worship and community.

Reserve places: <https://forms.office.com/e/wHVigR3Nwz>

This event will explore how our Quaker faith and communities can meet the Earth crisis with hope, strength, and compassion. The time together will be deeply rooted in worship, and will include a children's programme, short talks, workshops, discussions, practical activities, music, dance, art and much more.

The weekend will be part of a broader community building process including online and local, regional in-person meetings. More details, including open Zoom meetings in early March to help shape the gathering and wider process, can be found here, www.quaker.org.uk/events.

Financial help to attend:

Bursary support to attend events is available for everyone, www.quaker.org.uk/grants. If there are young adult Friends (18-35) connected to you or your Quaker community who wish to attend there are specific bursaries available from BYM Events and Learning: email youngadultgrants@quaker.org.uk or go to www.quaker.org.uk/grants-young-adults for details.

Training and Learning from Woodbrooke Learning



WOODBROOKE

Nominations in a Nutshell

Saturday 10 May, 10:00-16:00

Are you interested in how Quakers nominate and appoint people to roles? Are you joining or new to a Nominations Committee? This one-day online Woodbrooke course offers a clear overview of what 'Nominations' entails and the essentials of doing it effectively.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/nominations-in-a-nutshell



Clerking in a Nutshell

Saturday 21 June, 10:00-16:00

Whether you are new to clerking or an experienced Clerk for a Quaker Meeting, Group, or Committee, this one-day online Woodbrooke 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



Exploring Quaker Business Method

Wednesday 16 July, 19:00-21:00

The Quaker Business Method is a unique decision-making process at the heart of Quakerism. This online Woodbrooke session will look at the responsibilities of those present, including the clerks, and unpack terms used in Quaker Business Meetings.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/exploring-quaker-business-method-2



Being a Quaker Clerk: Residential Weekend

Friday 7 November to Sunday 9 November, The Hayes, Derbyshire

Have you recently taken on a clerking role or are you about to begin one? Join this Woodbrooke residential weekend for in-person, in-depth training and reflection on the core aspects of being a Quaker Clerk, whether in the Meeting House or online.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/being-a-quaker-clerk-residential-weekend



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.

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.

Yearly Meeting Bursary Fund

Friends shouldn't be put off coming to Yearly Meeting because they can't afford it. Find out how to get help, or donate to the fund, www.quaker.org.uk/ymbursary.

William Gunn's Charity

The William Gunn's Charity seeks applications for grants to assist individuals who are in membership of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain and are experiencing personal financial need or hardship. For example, Friends have received grants for essential removal costs, household bills, house repairs or to replace a fridge or cooker. They have been helped to give support to family members in hospital or to have a break from caring.

This list is not exhaustive. Do contact trustees of the William Gunn's Charity directly if you think you might be eligible: williamgunnscharity@gmail.com.