

Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

Issue 17: Spring 2026



Welcome to the spring issue!

Welcome to issue 17 of Clerks' Update, Spring 2026. 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.



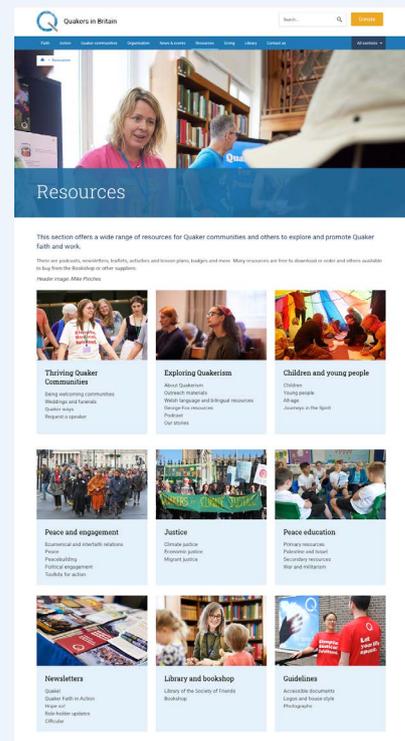
Photo by Ales Maze on Unsplash

Information for Quaker clerks

New look resources section of the Quakers in Britain website

The resources section of the Quakers in Britain website has been redesigned and is now up and running. There are now clearer sections relating to the work we do and the support that is offered to Friends. Images help navigate the pages which are laid out more clearly and should make it easier to find what is wanted.

Visit the new pages at, www.quaker.org.uk/resources.



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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Area Meeting Clerks' online discussion dates in 2026

Quaker Life has a network to support area meeting clerks. The e-group offers peer support where Friends can ask questions of each other and engage in online email-based conversations. If you are an area meeting clerk and have not connected with this group please contact Ollie to ask to be subscribed, oliverw@quaker.org.uk.

As well as the e-group there are online discussion meetings three times per year, usually in January, May and September. The dates of the two remaining discussion sessions are below. Information including the invite to register to attend is sent via the e-group.

- Thursday, 21 May 19:00 to 20:30
- Tuesday, 22 September 19:00 to 20:30

Outreach

■ Ordering resources

There are now order forms available for all the outreach resources. These are for [outreach resources](#), for [posters](#), and for [bilingual and Welsh language outreach resources](#). There is also an order form to request resources for work with [children and young people](#), and more general Quaker resources such as [leaflets for weddings and funerals](#). We hope that this will streamline the process of ordering materials and give you a good sense of the range of resources available. For any materials not included on these forms, including banners, please email outreach@quaker.org.uk.



■ Quaker Week dates

The dates for Quaker Week this year will be from **Saturday 26 Sept to Sunday 4 October**. World Quaker Day will be **Sunday 4 October**.

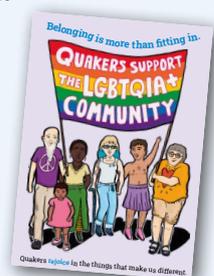
■ Outreach Network sessions

Our outreach network sessions continue to run every month, alternating a lunchtime and evening session on a Monday.

You can now register for the next session on [Monday 16 March from 12:30-1:30pm](#).

■ Quakers and Pride

If you are interested in being involved in a Quaker presence at Pride celebrations this year, either as an individual or as a meeting, we are happy to offer support with this and to put you in touch with other Friends to share ideas. Please contact outreach@quaker.org.uk for more information.



Yearly Meeting is changing in 2026

Yearly Meeting sessions will be held 1-4 May, 18 July and 21 November 2026

Area Meetings are reminded that they have been asked to appoint at least one representative to Yearly Meeting to attend from July 2026 – for more details see www.quaker.org.uk/documents/ym-call-for-reps. The Recording Clerk will also be writing to all AM clerks about this.

The last meeting of Meeting for Sufferings will be on 7 March 2026 and Area Meeting minutes should no longer be sent to Meeting for Sufferings. Instead, they should be sent to Agenda Planning Committee, which will discern if they are suitable for consideration by Yearly Meeting. Please send any minutes to the new email address ymagenda@quaker.org.uk.

Please look out for guidance about sending minutes to Agenda Planning Committee – this will be sent out by the Recording Clerk shortly and will appear on the website soon.

If you have questions about the changes to Yearly Meeting then don't hesitate to get in touch via rco@quaker.org.uk. We hope to see you at a Yearly Meeting session in 2026.



The EAPPI programme is recruiting Human Rights Monitors for 2027

The EAPPI programme calls human rights monitors Ecumenical Accompaniers, or EAs for short. EAs spend three months in Palestine and Israel witnessing and monitoring human rights violations and standing in solidarity with local peace activists.

Recruitment takes place a year in advance and is now looking for applicants who can serve in 2027. In-depth training and resources to help our EAs to prepare is provided.

EAPPI is a church programme but is open to all and there is no requirement to be Christian or involved in a church. We welcome applications from people of all faiths and none.

Please note that we can only recruit EAs who live in the UK or Ireland.

Find out more from the [EAPPI recruitment information poster](#).



A reminder about Quaker Life Representative Council

Quaker Life Central Committee, supported by the discernment of Quaker Life Representative Council Planning Group, has decided that **now is the right time to lay down Quaker Life Representative Council (QLRC)**. This decision will be reported to Meeting for Sufferings in Spring 2026.

Some of the ways Friends can continue to be involved in communication, education, inspiration and sharing our Quaker lives are:

- [Yearly Meeting](#) – From 2026 there will be several sessions a year.
- Quaker Life networks for [Outreach](#), [Youth](#), [children & families](#), [Children and young people's events](#), [Chaplaincy](#)
- Connect with your [Development worker](#)
- [Quake! weekly email newsletter](#) and other [newsletters](#) and [role-holder updates](#) from Quakers in Britain and [Woodbrooke](#)
- [Revising Quaker faith & practice](#)
- One-off themed events like the [Future of British Quakerism conference](#) held in 2024.

Youth, Children and Families

Accompaniment at Yearly Meeting 2026

1 May 15:00 – 4 May 16:00

Summary:

Support for young people aged 15-17 to attend Yearly Meeting alongside adults, at their own pace and depth. Experienced volunteers will help participants feel confident and included, offering guidance and space for reflection while they engage with worship and community as part of the wider Quaker family.

Details:

Accompaniment at Yearly Meeting 2026 offers support for young people aged 15-17 who want to attend Yearly Meeting alongside adults, at their own pace and depth. This programme is designed to help teenagers feel confident and included as they explore worship, community, and Quaker decision-making in a way that works for them. Experienced volunteers will be available throughout to provide guidance, answer questions, and create a safe space for reflection.

Participants will join the main Yearly Meeting sessions at Friends House in London, with the flexibility to step back when needed and take time for conversation or quiet. Accompaniment is about making sure young people feel supported and valued as part of the wider Quaker family, while giving them the freedom to engage meaningfully in the event.

Places are limited, and registration by a parent or guardian is required by 7 April 2026.

Booking link, www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings.



Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting 2026

2 May 9:00 – 4 May 16:30

Summary:

A fun and nurturing space for children aged 5–11 at Friends House in London. Through stories, games, and creative activities, children will explore this year's theme: "Building Bridges: how can we get along with people who think differently from us?"

The programme balances play and spiritual discovery, helping children feel included in the wider Quaker community.

Details:

Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting 2026 is a joyful and nurturing space for children aged 5–11 to explore faith, friendship, and fun together. This year's theme is "Building Bridges: how can we get along with people who think differently from us?" Through stories, games, creative activities, and worship, children will discover what it means to listen, understand, and connect with others—even when we don't agree. It's a chance to grow in kindness and learn how Quaker values can help us live peacefully in a diverse world.

The programme runs alongside Yearly Meeting at Friends House in London, offering children their own dedicated sessions while staying connected to the wider Quaker community. They will have opportunities to share what they've learned, take part in all-age worship, and feel included as valued members of our spiritual family. Experienced facilitators create a safe, welcoming environment where every child can feel heard and supported.

This programme can be booked by individual session and does not include accommodation. To attend the Children's Programme, a responsible adult should be close by. Please note that Britain Yearly Meeting cannot take responsibility for children outside of the programmed sessions.

Places are limited, and registration by a parent or guardian is required by 7 April 2026. The programme is carefully planned to balance spiritual exploration with play and creativity, making it both meaningful and enjoyable. If you want your child to experience friendship, fun, and the joy of building bridges across differences, sign up today and be part of this special event.

Booking link, www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings.



Events

Yearly Meeting

Friends House, Euston and online, 1-4 May 2026

You can still register to attend Yearly Meeting online or at Friends House Euston. The link to register is on the Quakers in Britain website here, www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings.

You can find the Documents in Advance and other key information about Yearly Meeting on the website at, www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents. Look carefully here and encourage anyone attending Yearly Meeting for the first time to look here, especially at the [Preparing for Yearly Meeting information](#).

The Yearly Meeting planning platform (Sched) is now live and when you register you will be sent an email giving you access to it. Use the planner to choose events and activities you would like to join. It includes the preparation sessions in advance of Yearly Meeting and all the YM weekend sessions. You need to use the planning tool if you are attending online and at Friends House.

YM Special Interest Meeting – Stories of peace and social witness

This session has been designed to be attended in a blended way, post-Meeting for Worship on Sunday, 22 March at 12noon. Join some of the Quakers in Britain staff team around the virtual fireside to hear and share stories of hope, inspiration and action. Come to hear about how Quaker support for Quakers in Britain contributes to incredible work in campaigning, advocacy, projects in the UK and in partnership abroad.

This session is available to register to [join on Sched](#).



Training and Learning from Woodbrooke Learning



WOODBROOKE

Woodbrooke's New Programme has Arrived!

Woodbrooke's new programme of courses from May to October 2026 is now live on our website.

Our latest courses continue our commitment to inspire, challenge, and support Friends at every stage. From deepening spiritual practice to engaging with peace and social justice, exploring Quaker theology, or equipping and strengthening those with roles and responsibilities in Quaker meetings, you'll find fresh opportunities to learn and reflect.

Explore the full programme at, www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses



Why Nominations Matter to Quakers

Tuesday 17 March 2026, 19:00-21:00

Nominations are at the heart of the way we live and work together as Friends. This fundamental Quaker practice is often undervalued, overlooked and even neglected. Come and learn about its potential to strengthen Quaker meetings and communities.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/why-nominations-matter-to-quakers



The Big Quaker Quiz

Thursday 9 April 2026, 19:00-21:00

It's quiz night! Assemble your own team of Friends and join this online Woodbrooke session to test your Quaker knowledge in a light-hearted evening of fun. Featuring puzzles, pictures and Quaker general knowledge, this quiz will test your lateral thinking skills as much as your information retention skills.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/the-big-quaker-quiz



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.