

Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

Issue 4: Winter 2022



Welcome to the Winter issue!

Welcome to the Clerks' Update, a communication channel for clerks of local and area Quaker communities. This is the final update in 2022. You can view an archive of past messages on our website at, www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update.

Support and guidance for Quaker clerks

Meeting role-holder changes

You should have received an email asking you to update the Role Holders for your Local meeting for 2023. Just a reminder that the **deadline is the 31 December 2022**.

If you didn't receive the email or have lost it the form can be filled in online at:
<https://forms.quaker.org.uk/2022-ecs-meeting-holders-update>.

Contact updates@quaker.org.uk for information or help.

Book of Discipline revision update and timeline

This message brings you greetings from the Book of Discipline Revision Committee and a request for your help with our committee's work. The committee has reached the point in its process where it feels ready to offer some draft text for wider circulation to ask for feedback from Friends.

Its work so far has been drafting content on different topics and trying to establish a 'voice of the book'. Enough progress has been made to test some draft texts. Friends' comments and responses to these texts will help to guide the drafting of material in the next few years.

Process and key dates

- **3 December 2022:** BDRC gave its third annual report to Meeting for Sufferings (MfS).
- **By 9 December 2022:** MfS follow up papers included two draft texts, links to audio versions of the same and a cover sheet explaining what feedback we'd find most useful and how we'd like to receive it.
- **Late January/early February 2023:** BDRC provide opportunity for online meetings for MfS reps and alternates to explore the texts and ask questions to clarify the feedback process.
- **3 March 2023:** MfS agenda expected to include time for reflection and discernment on the draft topics.
- **Yearly Meeting 2023:** BDRC hopes to offer special interest sessions responding to the draft texts.
- **31 May 2023:** feedback period closes for these two topics.

Abbreviations: BYM – Britain Yearly Meeting; LM – local meeting; AM – area meeting; YM – Yearly Meeting; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee; FWCC – Friends World Committee for Consultation

Published by Britain Yearly Meeting, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.
Registered charity no. 1127633

During this time you might be able and willing to encourage Friends in your area meeting to read and listen to the draft texts, and ideally to talk about them together. Feedback comments will be welcome from individuals. If Friends can engage in shared reflection and discernment that will be of value.

Issues around language, particularly to describe our spiritual experience, can be tender. We want everyone to feel included in the revision process and hope that this process can open rich conversations among Friends. We welcome all comments, particularly those which will help us to find our way forward in our task to meet the needs of the yearly meeting in the revision process.

Details of how to comment on the draft topics will be included in the documents. Links to the audio and text documents will be put on the Revising *Quaker faith & practice* web page at www.quaker.org.uk/rqfp by **Friday 9 December**.

Please be ready for further information from your Meeting for Sufferings representatives after its December meeting.

Discernment over allowing groups to use Quaker premises

How does your meeting [discern whether to support groups such as XR to meet at Quaker premises?](#) BYM has sought legal advice from Bates Wells Solicitors which has been shared with area meetings. If your AM has been approached by a group such as XR that Friends would like to support this guidance would be good starting point.

Responding to military engagement in schools

Thousands of British primary and secondary schools are visited each year by the armed forces and arms manufacturers. To help schools and families respond the Peace Education team has written a pamphlet providing guidance. [Responding to military engagement in schools \(PDF\)](#) encourages critical thinking about under-18 recruitment and highlights practical resources that can help introduce different perspectives. English and Welsh physical copies available early 2023. Please let families and teachers in your communities know about the pamphlet and make copies available in your meeting house. For physical copies contact peaceedu@quaker.org.uk.



Calling Quaker meeting librarians and library teams!

We invite all meeting librarians and other Friends involved in running meeting libraries to join the Quaker Meeting Librarians email discussion group (e-group).

The e-group provides a forum for sharing experience, advice, and mutual support on all aspects of meeting libraries, to maximise their contribution to the life of the meeting and to outreach. To join the e-group, email PrintedCollections@quaker.org.uk.

Volunteers for Junior Yearly Meeting and Yearly Meeting Children and young people's programmes

We'd be grateful if this could be read out in LMs please - thank you!

Dear Friends,

This Yearly Meeting is for all-ages and is a focal point for Quakers in Britain in 2023.

Children and young people are a key part of this and have an important part to play as a part of our Quaker community. We hope to provide enough places for up to 67, 15- to 18-year-olds to attend Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) (in early April), and 90 aged 0 to 18 to join Yearly Meeting (early May Bank Holiday).



One volunteer described these events as an instrumental part of my development as a teenager and young adult. I do not think I would be the person I am today without having attended these events. To make this difference we need a team of committed and hard-working volunteers to give service. Volunteers are also asked to attend planning and preparation meetings in the run-up to the event. All travel, accommodation and food expenses for the planning weekend and Yearly Meeting are covered.

We are currently in need of more volunteers to run these opportunities as planned. If you are interested in volunteering and would like to find out more information and apply visit <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/cyp-offers>. Here you will find out about how to offer service and BYM's safer recruitment or you can contact Catherine Waitaha 020 7663 1011, email catw@quaker.org.uk.

Being on a team at an event for children and young people gives you the chance to be part of a purposeful Quaker community, to develop your skills, to contribute to Quakers in Britain and to make a difference to their lives. If you've not done this before, don't worry - you will be offered support and training. You just need to be willing to get stuck in and help ensure participants are having a good time!

It's not just the participants that have a good time, here's what volunteers have said about this opportunity:

"I enjoy working alongside children and as part of a team of Quakers, developing our spiritual life and relationships together. I find my faith practice has been enhanced by volunteering."

"I volunteer because of how deeply enriching I found these events as a participant."

In Friendship,

Catherine, Jude, Mel, Paul and Zephyr



Deaf awareness video for churches

Would your meeting cope if someone who is d/Deaf came for the first time? Would you be able to communicate?

Neil Robinson, Chaplain to the Deaf community in Salisbury, presents this training resource in British Sign Language (BSL), with subtitles and voice-over. Neil tells you what to do if someone arrives at your church who is d/Deaf, including how to book BSL interpreters, and other communication tactics. Neil's top tips if a d/Deaf person comes to your church for the first time:

- Smile and show they are welcome! Don't panic – just try to communicate.
- Ask if they can lip read – point to your mouth to show what you mean.
- If you can't sign, you may be able to use written messages and gestures.
- Don't assume all d/Deaf people have the same communication needs –people may lip read or sign in BSL, or use other forms of signing.
- Always look at the d/Deaf person – speak to them directly, not to a person accompanying them.
- If a d/Deaf person visits, never ever pray for them to hear without asking! They know their prayer needs, and being d/Deaf may be their identity.

Neil's video with sage advice, cheerful encouragement and practical suggestions is available at: <https://youtu.be/bNQfFO6Pa7U>.

Events

Yearly Meeting 2023 – reminder of dates

The next Yearly Meeting will take place from 28 April to 1 May 2023. It will be a blended meeting held at Friends House, London and online. **Bookings will open on 10 January.**

Please look out for the Calling Letter, this will be sent to you in early January. At the same time, we will be seeking volunteers for pastoral care as well as sharing an invitation to join Sunday worship, as a meeting. This will be held in Friends House, London blending with gathered local meetings on Zoom, as well as Friends online at home.

Yearly Meeting 2024 – save the dates

Yearly Meeting 2024 will take place in London the weekend of 26–30 July 2024.

The way in which Friends engage with Yearly Meeting has changed over the last few years. Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee has decided it's important that Yearly Meeting remains open to those joining online. For the next few years it will continue to be held at Friends House where we are confident of our ability to manage the necessary technology.

Yearly Meeting 2024 will be a longer event than in 2021 and '22, allowing us to spend more time together, particularly in social events. It will run from Thursday until Tuesday, with plenty of opportunities for discussions and fringe meetings.

We look forward to sharing more detailed plans for YM2024 as they develop.

Youth, children & families (YCF)

Junior Yearly Meeting

Junior Yearly Meeting is an important event for young Quakers (15–18 year olds). It is Yearly Meeting in session for that age group. It often has a significant effect on their lives and Quaker Faith:

“JYM was a unique opportunity for young Quakers to reflect on our beliefs. It has really opened my eyes”

“Although I have been going to meeting all my life, I wasn’t entirely sure of my Quakerism until now as I have never had the opportunity to speak to other Friends my own age, but now I see my Quakerism in a new way.”

All of nominations information can be accessed at www.quaker.org.uk/events/junior-yearly-meeting-2023. Please be aware that the **deadline for nominations is 29 January, 2023** (this is the last clerks update mailing before this deadline). We will send another reminder via the AM clerks network before the deadline.



JYM 2022

Training and learning

Exploring Quaker Business Method

Wednesday 12 April 2023

Are there bits of how Quakers do business that you don’t understand? Do you have questions you never quite get chance to ask? This course looks at the different responsibilities that Clerks, Elders and Pastoral Carers take on, as well as the roles of every member and attender in the meeting.

Book online at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/exploring-quaker-business-method

Exploring a Quaker Commitment to Reparative Justice

23 January to 19 February 2023

Reparative justice is an essential part of living out Quaker faith. This workshop explores the spiritual imperative and deep need for Quakers to commit to repairing harms done by Quakers and others through their involvement in slavery and its afterlives.

Book online at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/exploring-a-quaker-commitment-to-reparative-justice

Grants and financial help

Financial help with energy costs

Government support on energy costs for charities and businesses

The Government has published details of the [Energy Bills Relief Scheme](#) for non-domestic customers. Discounts will be applied to energy usage for an initial six-month period between 1 October 2022 and 31 March 2023. The scheme will apply in England, Scotland and Wales. Customers do not need to apply as the discount will be automatically applied to bills.

Role-holder Networks

at a glance



Area meeting clerks

E-group: by invite or contact supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/clerks

Area meeting treasurers

E-group: by invite or contact supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/treasurers

Children and Young People's Work Advocates Network

E-group: by invite or contact cypadmin@quaker.org.uk

Online discussion network: advertised via the advocates e-group

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/cypadvocates

Clerks to area meeting trustees

E-group: by invite or contact supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk

Online discussion network. Website: www.quaker.org.uk/trustees

Outreach

E-group: by invite or contact Naomi Major, naomim@quaker.org.uk

Property advice (informal non-legal help and peer support)

E-group: <http://lists.quaker.eu.org/postorius/lists/property-advice.lists.quaker.eu.org>

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/property

Quaker chaplains

E-group for prison chaplains: by invite or contact chaplainsupport@quaker.org.uk

E-group for all chaplains: by invite or contact supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk

Online discussion network. Website: www.quaker.org.uk/chaplaincy

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR)

E-group: <http://lists.quaker.eu.org/postorius/lists/qccir.lists.quaker.eu.org>

Conference (normally every 2 years): www.woodbrooke.org.uk/qccir-conference

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/qccir

Quaker Life Representatives

E-group: by invite or contact qladmin@quaker.org.uk

Quaker Meeting Librarians

E-group: by invite or contact PrintedCollections@quaker.org.uk

Council: Twice annually in April and October

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/qlrc

Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC)

E-group: <http://lists.quaker.eu.org/postorius/lists/qwrc-network.lists.quaker.eu.org>

Registering officers

E-group: by invite or contact Michael Booth, michaelsb@quaker.org.uk

Safeguarding network

E-group: by invite or contact safe@quaker.org.uk

Wardens (et al) Talking

E-group: <http://lists.quaker.eu.org/postorius/lists/wardenship.lists.quaker.eu.org>

Online discussion network: advertised via the wardenship and property advice e-groups

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/employers