

# Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

## Issue 2: Summer 2022



### Welcome to the Summer issue!

Welcome to the second *Clerks Update* for Quaker local and area meeting clerks and convenors. You can view an archive of past role-holder updates on our website at [www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update](http://www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update). The following headings will be used each time to give a familiar shape and feel the newsletter:

- Support and guidance for Quaker clerks
- Events (in particular those requiring nomination)
- Youth, children and families
- Training and learning
- Grants and financial help

### Support and guidance for Quaker clerks

#### Recruiting the last few Local Development Workers

The [staff team in Quaker Life](#) is almost complete. New staff members have started work in 2022, see details below:

##### Youth Development Workers

- Jo Baynham (Yorkshire): [jonathonb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:jonathonb@quaker.org.uk)
- Zephyr Blofeld (Western England): [zephyrb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:zephyrb@quaker.org.uk)

##### Local Development Workers

- Melanie Thomas (Cumberland & North East England): [melaniet@quaker.org.uk](mailto:melaniet@quaker.org.uk)
- Sarah Shaw (East Midlands): [sarahs@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sarahs@quaker.org.uk)
- Jac Blacker (Western England): [jacb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:jacb@quaker.org.uk)
- Moya (Thames Valley): [moya@quaker.org.uk](mailto:moya@quaker.org.uk)



### Coming soon: work for Quakers!

There are still roles for local and youth development workers to be recruited in London, Thames Valley, Southern England, Herts to Beds and the West Midlands. These will be advertised soon after Yearly Meeting and we will be sharing details via [Quake!](#) and other communications channels. Please assist our recruitment by helping people who would suit working for Quakers to find out about the roles.

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

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## Prison chaplaincy information and nomination process

Quaker prison chaplains provide spiritual support and friendship to prisoners and staff – and we need more of them in British prisons. For further information, including the nominating process, please contact Eugene Nanning, Prison Chaplain Support Officer [chaplainsupport@quaker.org.uk](mailto:chaplainsupport@quaker.org.uk).

General information about our Quaker prison chaplaincy is available at [www.quaker.org.uk/qpc](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qpc).

Please be aware that even if you do not have a prison in your area meeting, it is possible for some Friends to serve as prison chaplains in neighbouring area meeting prisons.

### The nomination process

For prison chaplains this is slightly different from nominating other roles: area meetings nominate the prison chaplain but it is the Ministry of Justice (via the prison) that makes the actual appointment.

A recommended template for the minute of appointment is available on request from [chaplainsupport@quaker.org.uk](mailto:chaplainsupport@quaker.org.uk).

## Review of Meeting for Sufferings

A consultation document is being prepared to seek the views of Friends on various aspects of [Meeting for Sufferings](#). This consultation is part of a three-stage review of Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Gathering and Meetings for Sufferings. It can be found [here](#). Please watch out for it and encourage Friends in your community to respond. The review group can be contacted through Michael Booth on a dedicated email [reviewgroup@quaker.org.uk](mailto:reviewgroup@quaker.org.uk).

## ‘Overseers’ – time to change?

Friends are currently considering whether we should continue using the term ‘overseer’ or find a different term to describe those in our meetings who hold responsibilities for pastoral support. In 2021, Meeting for Sufferings felt there was general support for a change to the term, partly because of the historical connotations relating to hierarchy and oppression. Meetings have been encouraged to experiment with the structure and terminology of the role and report back to Meeting for Sufferings. If your area meeting hasn’t yet sent a minute to Meeting for Sufferings, please do so soon as it will be under consideration at its meeting in December. For further information: [sufferings@quaker.org.uk](mailto:sufferings@quaker.org.uk).

## Events

### Quaker Prison Chaplains Annual Conference

**Friday 7 to Sunday 9 October 2022 – in-person at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre**

This is an annual opportunity for Quaker prison chaplains, both recently nominated and those with experience, to meet, share and learn from each other. The theme of this year’s event is ‘Working Creatively’. Attendees can expect sharing, networking, workshops and worship.

The booking details will be advertised online the [BYM website events page](#) in late August.

## Yearly Meeting 2022

### Online and at Friends House, London from Saturday, 21 May to Monday, 30 May

You can still register to attend online but you can no longer book to attend in person. You need to register to have access to the programme for Yearly Meeting. You can then use the [Sched booking app](#) to decide which events to attend. [www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings)

Make sure to look out for the Faith in Action sessions that Quaker Life is offering. See below:

- Yearly Meeting unplugged (3 sessions on 21, 24 and 27 May)
- Beacon epilogue (daily 27, 28 and 29 May)
- RESTORE supporting Quaker communities (3 sessions on 21, 22 and 23 May)
- Local development work in your area (3 sessions on 21, 22 and 23 May)
- Young adults in Quaker community (21 May)
- Where do I get support as a trustee/treasurer? (22 May)
- Young adults in Quaker faith (22 May)
- Could you be a Quaker prison chaplain? (23 May)
- Young adults in action: retreat workshop (23 May)
- Area meetings collaborating – how far can we go? (24 May)
- Mindful walk (25 May)
- Elder and overseer: what's in a name? (25 May)
- The strange paradox of Quaker conciliation (26 May)



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Some of the team will be at Friends House in person and others joining online. We will be at the information stand and available for conversations between yearly meeting sessions. Come and find us or arrange an informal chat with your local or youth development worker.

## Quaker Life Representative Council

In April, Quaker Life Representative Council (QLRC) met online over three days, with Friends representing area meetings across Britain for a time of worship, fellowship, conversation and learning. Together, Friends shared stories and experiences from their own Quaker communities of the struggles and challenges of the past two years; we also looked at the ways of coming together that Friends are finding helpful and hopeful as we begin to rebuild, reconnect and move forward.

Part of our time together was spent in a reflective, worshipful exploration of community and inclusion, looking at some of the barriers to inclusion and at how Friends might respond to them.

QLRC is a core part of Quaker Life's work of supporting and nurturing Quaker communities. It offers a two-way channel of communication between Quaker communities and our centrally managed work.

We do hope clerks will connect with their AM Rep to find out more about Rep Council. Reps can help clerks decide how best to share the resources from our gathering with groups and Friends across the area.

You can find out more about QLRC online at [www.quaker.org.uk/qlrc](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qlrc).

## Youth, children & families (YCF)

### Summer events for young Quakers in Britain

Please share details of the events for young Quakers to everyone who might need them in your Quaker community. Local and area meetings are asked to help with the cost of these events and there are bursaries available to enable everyone eligible attend.

#### Summer Shindig (age 11-16)

**Ackworth School, North Yorks, 30 July–6 August**

Northern Young Friends' Summer Shindig is a week-long residential event young Quakers. We are a community within which participants learn about honesty, trust and acceptance of themselves and others. We also have lots of fun!

For information: <https://summershindig.wordpress.com>

#### Friends Summer School (age 11-17)

**FSC Blencathra, near Keswick, 14–20 August**

A residential Quaker event for young people from the North West of England and North Wales. It offers sports, discussions, creative workshops, worship, co-operative activities, music, drama... and more.

For information:

[www.facebook.com/FriendsSummerSchool](http://www.facebook.com/FriendsSummerSchool)

#### Yorkshire Friends Holiday School (age 13-18)

**Bootham School, York, 21–28 August**

A week-long residential event. During the week we create a strong sense of community through activities, discussion and worship. For young people it provides a place to explore their faith, build friendships and have a lot of fun in a friendly and inclusive environment.

For booking and information: <http://yfhs.org.uk>

#### Friends Southern Summer Events:

##### Junior Gathering (age 11-14)

**Leighton Park School, Reading, 20–27 August**

Junior Gathering is an exciting and busy week packed with activities and a chance to meet new people and have fun. It is a chance for young people to make friends and be together in a Quaker environment.

For booking and information:

[www.fsse.org.uk/junior-gathering/online-booking](http://www.fsse.org.uk/junior-gathering/online-booking)

##### Senior Conference (age 15-18)

**Sibford School, Banbury, 20–27 August**

Senior Conference is a spiritual gathering and a Quaker conference run by and for young Quakers. It is a place of friendship, laughter, and reflection, which builds a strong and supportive community over the course of the week, and friendships which last for a lifetime.

For booking and information:

[www.fsse.org.uk/senior-conference/online-booking](http://www.fsse.org.uk/senior-conference/online-booking)





## Training and learning

### Going Inside: training for Quaker prison chaplains

Provided by Woodbrooke in partnership with the Quaker Prison Chaplains’ Committee  
31 May 2022 to 19 June 2022 – online

Going Inside is open to all Quaker prison chaplains, both recently-nominated and those with experience. It will cover practical issues about working in the prison environment, and how to build trust with staff and prisoner within clear boundaries. It will also encourage you to reflect on the Quaker basis of your ministry within a multi-faith team and to deepen your understanding of the role. The course will be led by two experienced serving chaplains in three ‘live’ webinars, with time between for individual study to inform your practice.

Details and booking: [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/going-inside](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/product/going-inside)

### Courses and learning at Woodbrooke

Woodbrooke has a new brochure which covers courses from now until the autumn. This includes a series of short sessions exploring Quaker roles as well as longer roles courses. There are also plenty of opportunities to explore more about Quaker history, spirituality, and witness. Many Quaker communities have found great benefit to sending Friends, new and seasoned, on these online courses. The brochure also includes residential retreats at the Woodbrooke Centre in Birmingham that offer the in-person Woodbrooke experience. [Download the new brochure from Woodbrooke’s website.](#)



### Churches Together in England: training for Denominational Ecumenical Officers

Area meetings may choose to appoint a Friend to the intermediate body (usually county) of Churches Together in England (CTE) in their locality. This role is called [Denominational Ecumenical Officers \(DEO\)](#). CTE offers training for DEOs which will next be taking place at Woodbrooke on Tuesday 31 January to Wednesday 1 February 2023, lunchtime to lunchtime.

You can [find out more and book the DEO training](#) on the CTE website.

## Grants and financial help

### Hope Grants

Hope Grants of up to £750 are available to improve the quality of life for Quaker members and attenders affected by long-term unemployment or unable to make a living wage. You will need the support of a local overseer or equivalent when making the application. Please note that the application process can take up to a few weeks, so these grants should not be relied on for emergency funding.

For more information and an application form: [www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants](http://www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants)

### BYM Grants for Young Adults

Britain Yearly Meeting has a grants scheme for 18-35 year olds which supports young adult Quakers to participate more fully in the life of the Society of Friends. There are three different types of young adult grant you can apply for.

#### Quaker Events and Learning Grant

To support young adult Quakers to attend events, courses and other Quaker learning opportunities which would otherwise not be possible due to financial constraints. Grants up to £500.

[www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-events-and-learning-grant](http://www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-events-and-learning-grant)

#### Financial Relief Grant

To improve the quality of life for young adult Friends who have impaired quality of life due to low income (usually defined as earning below the living wage). Grant's up to £500.

[www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-relief-grant](http://www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-relief-grant)

#### Living Adventurously Grant

To support young adults in service they feel led to do as part of their Quaker witness, which is otherwise not possible due to financial constraints. This service might take the form of volunteering, whether in the UK or abroad, or other forms of Quaker witness. These grants are not intended to only support activities run by Quaker organisations.

[www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-living-adventurously-grant](http://www.quaker.org.uk/yaf-living-adventurously-grant)

