

# Preparing for Yearly Meeting

Compiled for Yearly Meeting,  
Friends House, London and online  
26–30 July 2024

Yearly Meeting of Quakers in Britain



# Preparing for Yearly Meeting

## Welcome

Everyone in our Quaker community is welcome, whether in membership or not. We hope this document will help you prepare for Yearly Meeting. If you've never been before, and you're still not sure what to expect or how to prepare, ask a Friend from your worshipping community who has been to Yearly Meeting before to help you understand it.

Yearly Meeting is most fruitful when its programme includes some decision-making and 'doing together', alongside more reflective sessions; and when it focuses on doing what only Yearly Meeting can do.

Our testimony to integrity and truth will be at the heart of Yearly Meeting.

Our discernment will consider how Quakers have acted on previous Yearly Meeting commitments to equity and justice. Are we speaking and living our truth? We will take inspiration from the actions of individual Friends, local meetings and central work in pursuit of climate justice, an anti-racist Society of Friends, and welcoming and affirming transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people.

In this general election year, we will continue our consideration of integrity in public life, in media and politics. How do we find the kinder ground on which to listen, acknowledge and disagree, and enable a shared quest for truth?

Yearly Meeting will discern its own formal role in steering the Society of Friends and how this is reflected in our structure of meetings.

This **Summer Yearly Meeting** is an experimental one, hoping to find new ways of being and discerning as an all-age community. **Exploration sessions**, online and in person, on the Saturday and Sunday afternoons, will offer different ways of approaching the questions we're facing together.

**Exploration sessions are as much a part of Yearly Meeting's discernment as the more traditional minuted sessions.** They will include opportunities to look in detail at the work that has been done in relation to our existing Yearly Meeting commitments.

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee encourages preparation for Yearly Meeting by individuals and in

the worshipping communities to which we each belong. Let us use this Yearly Meeting as an opportunity to strengthen our community and our actions.

## Proceedings

A number of documents will help us meet with hearts and minds prepared. The full set comprises:

1. *Preparing for Yearly Meeting*, including community guidelines and resources for preparation
2. *Yearly Meeting agenda & notes*, including etiquette for online meetings
3. *Testimonies*, including index of epistles from other yearly meetings and Quaker bodies
4. *Trustees' annual report*, including financial statements for the year ended December 2023
5. *Patterns of membership*, including the 2023 tabular statement

Together with the Yearly Meeting Minutes, which are distributed after the conclusion of Yearly Meeting, these are the 'Proceedings of the Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain 2024'.

All documents will be available online at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym). Many Friends will read the documents online and have access to the web links included in the documents. Each document is in a printer-friendly PDF format, and we ask Friends who need paper copies to print their own copies or to seek assistance from someone in their meeting. To minimise costs and environmental impact we will only be printing a limited number of copies. These will be prioritised for those attending at Friends House or with accessibility needs.

If you require accessible documents, please request these when booking for Yearly Meeting. If these do not meet your accessibility needs, or the needs of someone you know, please email [ym@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ym@quaker.org.uk).

All *Quaker faith & practice* references are to the fifth edition, which is online at [www.quaker.org.uk/qfp](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qfp).

You can read about Yearly Meeting in [chapter 6](#) of *Quaker faith & practice*. Alternatively, contact the Yearly Meeting Office on 020 7663 1040 or at [ym@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ym@quaker.org.uk), or go to [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym).

# Our community agreement

## Quaker practice at Yearly Meeting

*“Respect the wide diversity among us in our lives and relationships. Refrain from making prejudiced judgments about the life journeys of others. Do you foster the spirit of mutual understanding and forgiveness which our discipleship asks of us? Remember that each one of us is unique, precious, a child of God.”*

*Advices & queries 22*

Yearly Meeting aims to be a spiritually enriching experience, where Friends build a loving and inclusive community. It is important for us all to consider what impact our behaviour and words might have on others. We need to continue to practise listening and speaking to one another with care. Quakers are not immune to the bad behaviour that seems to occur more often online than in person. We need to maintain our discipline of coming together to “know God’s will for the gathered group”, despite the challenges of meeting remotely.

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee asks you to share responsibility for creating a safe and loving community by upholding Quaker discipline at this Yearly Meeting.

Throughout Yearly Meeting and beforehand, whether meeting online or in Friends House:

- Follow the guidance on safeguarding and online security provided for events.
- When talking or writing to other participants about the Yearly Meeting topics please take care over how you communicate. Use inclusive language and behaviour to avoid hurt. Pause before communicating (especially online) and carefully consider whether you might be about to say something you would later regret.
- Be mindful of how important or sensitive the subject may be when discussing views and beliefs you or others may hold. Respect the experiences and opinions of others, even if they differ from your own. Be open to change.

- Do not lobby clerks, introducers, staff or other servants of the meeting regarding the agenda (see [Quaker faith & practice 3.04](#)). Do not assume that Friends who are closely involved will always be available to discuss a topic with you; people might need time off from the discernment between Yearly Meeting sessions.
- Do not claim to speak on behalf of others when expressing your own view.

In Yearly Meeting and preparatory sessions:

- Follow the general counsel on church affairs set out in [Quaker faith & practice 3.01–3.07](#). Friends are encouraged to speak clearly and briefly, and stand to speak if able to do so. Our experience is that Friends online may not sense as quickly as Friends present in person that their ministry has been heard. Clerks may say when a Friend has ministered at sufficient length and it is time to make space for others’ contributions so that a wide range of voices can be heard. If this message is not received it may occasionally be necessary to disconnect an online contribution.
- Yearly Meeting sessions are meetings for worship, so give your full attention to the matter before the meeting. Do not carry on a parallel discussion on social media, just as you would not chat to neighbours during a face-to-face session.

Interactions between Friends (online or in Friends House) can result in pain and distress. Be mindful of your own words and actions, and careful that you do not cause inadvertent hurt.

Behaviour such as bullying, harassment or verbal abuse is not acceptable and will not be tolerated. If you experience or witness unacceptable behaviour by anyone in our community, for the well-being of everyone concerned, please let an elder or a member of the Pastoral Care Team know.

Yearly Meeting clerks and elders may decide, exceptionally, to exclude from the event anyone who does not abide by these guidelines.

## Resources for preparation

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee has chosen resources in various formats to promote inclusion. Some are for individual contemplation and learning, while others are suitable for groups. We hope everyone will find something to help them prepare for discernment at Yearly Meeting in session.

There will be opportunities to attend learning and preparatory sessions online before Yearly Meeting (see [“Before Yearly Meeting” on page 7](#) for details).

Some of these events might refer to material found in the resource list below; however, while it is helpful, it is not essential to have read and studied this material before attending a preparatory session or a Yearly Meeting session. All Friends are welcome.

### Speaking and living with integrity

When we make a commitment at Yearly Meeting, it's a promise, both individually and corporately. In 2011 we promised to become a low-carbon sustainable community. How have you kept that promise? In 2021 and 2022 we promised to become an anti-racist church and to look at reparations for past harms. What has our Quaker community done to keep those promises? In 2021 we promised to welcome and affirm transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people. How well have we kept our promise? In 2021 we promised that our anger, grief and love would push us forward to renewed action on climate justice. Where have your anger, grief and love taken you since then?

How good are we at keeping our promises? Are we able to celebrate our work, or do we need to confess to our inadequacy? How does that make us feel?

In preparation we'd like you to think about what you and your meeting have done in response to Yearly Meeting commitments. As a starting point for this, we'd like you to remind yourself of the minutes on these topics. Later in preparation we will be sharing information about work Friends have done on these commitments. In the Exploration sessions during Yearly Meeting you will have opportunities to engage with work that has been done and what you and your meetings could achieve in the future. In a clerked session of Yearly Meeting we will be asking:

- do Friends hear a Yearly Meeting minute as a call to personal or collective action?
- what difference does a Yearly Meeting minute make?

We will not have time and do not seek to revisit the text of the minutes relating to the huge issues of climate justice, being an anti-racist church and welcoming transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people. Our focus is on what difference a Yearly Meeting minute has made and what has been done in response.

### Preparation questions

To fully participate in sharing our experiences we ask Friends to consider these questions at their local and/or area meeting or with their other worshipping group.

1. Why do Friends take such care to make minutes? For whom and what purpose are minutes for?
2. Do you make sure all Friends know about minutes which make commitments on behalf of the local meeting, area meeting and Yearly Meeting? How?
3. How do these minutes reflect the concerns of Friends, now or at the time they were made?
4. Do you go about following up such minutes with action? How?
5. What action has been taken by your local or area meeting in relation to the minutes set out below?

### Previous minutes

The Yearly Meeting minutes to explore are:

- Minutes 27 and 33, 2022 on reparations for the transatlantic slave trade and colonialism,
- Minute 24, 2021 minute received from Junior Yearly Meeting which draws things together,
- Minute 33, 2021 on climate justice,
- Minute 31, 2021 on including and welcoming transgender, non-binary and gender diverse people,
- Minute 17, 2021 on becoming an anti-racist church,
- Minute 36, 2011 (known as the Canterbury commitment) on becoming a low carbon community.

## Activities

These activities are a starting point for exploring the relevant minutes, available in the appendix [here](#). You might use just one, a mix of the three, or create your own activities. It may help to have the texts available both on paper and electronically.

### Activity 1: Responding to minutes shared in worship.

Additional resources needed: Blank paper and drawing/writing materials.

1. **Share all relevant text in advance** to help those who struggle to read, recall, and process large amounts of information.
2. **Start your session gathered in stillness.**
3. **Someone can read aloud the chosen minute(s)** and questions, when appropriate, with Friends listening in silence.
4. **When listening to the minute, consider:**
  - a. Does hearing the minute read out in worship change the way you respond to it?
  - b. What are your key impressions, listening to the minute in the stillness?
5. **Work through the above questions as you see fit.** Give everyone a chance to explore the questions and share their thoughts and impressions. While considering these questions, some Friends may want to draw or write their responses.

### Activity 2: Building responses to the questions.

Additional resources needed: Building materials. These may include children's building blocks or Lego sets; plasticine; or playdough made for this activity. Friends of all ages may enjoy finding materials from outside to build with.

1. **Start by discussing the minutes briefly.** In small groups, attempt to summarise each minute in one or two sentences. What were the critical points?
2. **Use the materials you have collected to build a response** to what you have been discussing, either in small groups or individually.

- This might be a model to represent the core meaning of each of the minutes; a model to show how your meeting is acting on one or more of the minutes now; or a visual representation of what you think business minutes really are.

3. **Alternative approach:** make a pyramid representing thoughts about the minute(s).

- What do the blocks represent?
- What ideas are at the bottom as the foundation; what is at the top?
- What could be removed without affecting the rest of the structure?
- Are you guided by the text of the minutes, or by the general themes they contain?

### Activity 3: scavenger hunt

1. **Working together, make a list of key words or concepts within the minutes.** This might include equality; sustainability; anti-racism; white privilege; gender diversity; blessings; love; kinder ground; and many others.
2. **Go on a scavenger hunt around your Meeting House.** Taking one word at a time, each player must find something around the Meeting House that represents that concept, either literally or metaphorically. They then bring it back to share with the group. For example, if you are scavenging for the word "Love", Friends might bring back: a favourite teddy bear or book; a photo of those doing the washing up after coffee; a family member they came to Meeting with; an image of branches in a tree that form a heart shape.
3. **Traditionally, this is a race,** with the first person back winning that round. You may want to play it like this, or...
4. **Alternatively, play it more mindfully.** Give time to go out and find your object, and then a chance to share your thoughts and interpretations as a group.

## Truth and Integrity in public life

We will also be continuing our consideration of Truth and Integrity in public life. Where and how do we find the truth from contradictory sources? How can we encourage a culture of integrity in media and politics? How do we find kinder ground on which to disagree, and enable a shared quest for truth?

In 2023, Yearly Meeting's consideration of this was introduced with prepared ministry from Diane Randall, and you may find it useful to hear this again.

A recording is available to watch on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/YM23-DRPM>.

*"Seeking truth is a practice of staying open to what we don't know and haven't experienced, and to mistakes we have made or are making. When we open ourselves to this listening we find ourselves on 'kinder ground'.*

*"We need to listen widely, including to young Friends for their concerns and advice, and to amplify the voices of people from oppressed groups and seek to 'increase the proximity between us'.*

*"How are we hearing prophetic witness today? How might we practise our public presence as Quakers? How can we name and claim our Quaker identity and act as public truth tellers?"*

Minute 23 of Yearly Meeting 2023

## Materials

- Minute from Junior Yearly Meeting 2023, "How can we use truth to challenge power for inclusive change?" [www.quaker.org.uk/documents/minute-junior-yearly-meeting-2023](http://www.quaker.org.uk/documents/minute-junior-yearly-meeting-2023).
- The Blind Men and the Elephant: A short video (3½ minutes) of the story of the blind men and the elephant is available to watch on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/YT-BMATE>.
- Quaker quiet diplomacy work: [www.quaker.org.uk/qdiplomacy](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qdiplomacy). This blog introduces the work being done by Britain Yearly Meeting staff on this issue.

- The declaration of the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group: <https://quakertruth.org>. The Quaker Truth and Integrity Group is a Quaker Recognised Body working on this issue.
- The 2021 Swarthmore Lecture, by Thomas Penny, "Kinder Ground: Creating space for Truth" is available to watch on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/YMSL-2021>.

## Activities

If you want to share preparation at your Quaker worshipping group, we suggest the following activity:

1. Play the 'Two Truths and a Lie' game. Either split into small groups or work altogether, depending on the size of the group. Each person is asked to share three things about themselves, aiming at things the others won't already know. Two of the things should be true and one a lie: surprising truths and mundane lies work best! The rest of the group is then asked to guess which are true and which is a lie.
2. Come together worshipfully
3. Read out the declaration of the Quaker Truth and Integrity Group and the minute from Junior Yearly Meeting.
4. Break into small groups to discuss. These questions are suggested:
  - Have you changed your mind about anything in the last year? How did you use evidence to make this change?
  - Who in your family, circle of friends or Friends do you disagree with? Are the issues important? How do you manage differences?
  - How can we encourage truth and integrity in public life?
5. Come together for a period of worship sharing.



## Continuing our work on Quaker Structures - discerning the future for Yearly Meeting

*“We recognise that a change in the relationship between Yearly Meeting, Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, and Meeting for Sufferings is needed to address the overlap in current roles and responsibilities. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to bring to a future Yearly Meeting session proposals for what that change could look like.”*

Part of YM 2023 Minute 30

Meeting for Sufferings appointed a Group to Review Yearly Meeting, Yearly Meeting Gathering and Meeting for Sufferings (GRYYM) in 2021.

GRYYM has suggested a **continuing Yearly Meeting** that would meet four times each year in open, blended sessions. Blended sessions allow people to attend the same meeting either online or in the room. With open meetings, all Friends could take part in spirit-led discernment of the issues most important to our lives as Quakers. When we meet as a whole community we enrich ourselves and our process as we build relationships and open ourselves to a wider range of experiences. Area meetings would be expected to appoint representatives to continuing Yearly Meeting to ensure continuity of attendance.

Most of the business currently given to Meeting for Sufferings would come to continuing Yearly Meeting and some would be given to other committees.

## Attending Yearly Meeting

Yearly Meeting will take place from Friday 26 to Tuesday 30 July 2024. Held at Friends House, London, and online, the event will include Yearly Meeting in Exploration sessions, minuted sessions, social time, worship and the Swarthmore Lecture.

### First time at Yearly Meeting?

Yearly Meeting (YM) is a large event and can be very busy. The most useful guide to what is happening is the YM Planner, which lists everything taking place – including minuted Yearly Meeting business sessions, exploration sessions on the questions for Yearly Meeting, worship, and meetings or workshops about

Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees would be accountable to and would report to continuing Yearly Meeting. Continuing Yearly Meeting would give guidance to BYM Trustees on important matters. It would set the direction for Quakers in Britain’s staff and committees and ensure that their work reflects the concerns of the Yearly Meeting.

In this [appendix](#) you can read the GRYYM report that sets out the proposal for a continuing Yearly Meeting in more detail, including how it could work and how it could address some of the issues in our current structures. At the heart of the proposal is the belief that it will strengthen spirit-led discernment within our Religious Society.

In March 2024 Meeting for Sufferings endorsed GRYYM’s proposals and sent the report to Yearly Meeting 2024 for further discernment. The relevant minute is in the [appendix](#).

### Materials

- Jennifer Kavanagh’s prepared ministry at Yearly Meeting 2023, on the gifts of the Spirit is available to watch on YouTube at: <https://tinyurl.com/YM23-JKGTSPM>.
- The 2014 Swarthmore Lecture by Ben Pink Dandelion, [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/resource-library/2014-swarthmore-lecture-video](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/resource-library/2014-swarthmore-lecture-video).

putting faith into action. Volunteering, to help with microphone stewarding, for example, (see [“How can I help?” on page 10](#)) can be a good way to get to know how Yearly Meeting works and meet other Friends.

### Before Yearly Meeting

From 5-10 July 2024 there will be programmed events in advance of Yearly Meeting. Friends are encouraged to attend, as these will help us to join in discernment at Yearly Meeting with hearts and minds prepared. There will be preparatory sessions relating to the agenda of Yearly Meeting, as well as ‘fringe’ events, consisting of meetings of Quaker Recognised Bodies and Quaker central committees.

All preparatory and fringe events will take place online only, and it is essential that you book your place at Yearly Meeting in order to gain access to this programme. Please book online at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym).

Other opportunities will include Woodbrooke sessions on 'How does Yearly Meeting work?' and 'Supporting online discernment'. Those attending Yearly Meeting for the first time, or for the first time online, are strongly encouraged to attend.

Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee is currently finalising the timetable, so please look out for the latest information on events and time slots at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym). Once you have booked to attend Yearly Meeting (in Friends House or online), further details will be made available.

### Attending at Friends House and online

Some Friends will participate online while others will attend in person at Friends House in London. We know that travelling to London can be difficult for many Friends and others are uncomfortable with large crowds. Nevertheless, it is important that everyone finds a way to join Yearly Meeting if they wish.

Clerks would love to welcome Friends from every area meeting at Yearly Meeting in Friends House as well as online. Families are warmly encouraged, as are young people. If your child is attending the Children's programme for 0–11s, a responsible adult must also be present nearby. Those attending Young People @ Yearly Meeting will also need a responsible adult outside of booked sessions.

Yearly Meeting sessions will be clerked from the Large Meeting House. Those attending online will be part of the meeting alongside those at Friends House. Everyone will be equally able to indicate that they feel called to give ministry. As well as taking part in Yearly Meeting sessions, Friends joining online will be able attend morning and evening worship (some will be blended, some will be online). The Swarthmore Lecture will be available to watch online on the Saturday evening by a live link.

Exploration sessions will mostly happen either online or, separately, face to face (most exploration sessions will not be blended). There will be a Groups Fair, in

which a number of Quaker Recognised Bodies take part. This will happen on the Saturday and Monday lunchtimes. There will be a Quakers in Britain work fair on Sunday lunchtime, where you can come and find out more about the work being done by Quakers in Britain's committees and staff. The fairs will only be available to those attending in Friends House.

Whichever way you plan to join in with Yearly Meeting, you must book in order to attend. After registering, you will be able to book individual sessions online from home; full details will be provided. For attendance online or in Friends House, registration opens on Monday 11 March on the Quakers in Britain website: go to [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym). Registration for Yearly Meeting closes on Sunday 7 July.

Bookings for Children's Programme and Young People @ Yearly Meeting close on Sunday 16 June. For Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM), the deadline for Nominations by Meetings is Sunday 24 March. Those nominated as JYM participants need their parent or guardian to confirm their place by Sunday 8 April.

### Swarthmore Lecture

The 2024 Swarthmore Lecture will be given by Ben Jarman. Ben's lecture will focus on imprisonment and punishment, exploring what Quakers distinctively have to say today about these topics.

Clerk of the Swarthmore Lecture Committee, Sarah Donaldson, said this about the lecture:

*"Ben's rich professional and personal experience place him in a unique position to share his ministry on this complex area. The committee believes that Ben can help the yearly meeting tap into the many voices of those with lived experience of the criminal justice system. We hope that through the lecture Friends will be encouraged to reflect on criminal justice, punishment, rehabilitation and to explore the broader and longer flow of Quaker witness on this subject."*

Ben aims in his lecture to explore the messy middle ground between seemingly rigid positions on how society responds to crime: escalating demands for more severe punishment; claims that a reformed system can rehabilitate; or calls to envision a future in which prisons and punishment no longer exist.



## What's on offer...

### For children and young people

#### Children and Young People's programmes

These programmes are an integral part of Yearly Meeting. They enable children and young people to engage with Yearly Meeting in a variety of age-appropriate ways, encouraging their faith formation and spiritual development and helping them to experience transformation beyond the event. They also help to integrate them with the wider Quaker community. There will be opportunities both in Friends House and online.

All under-18s attending Yearly Meeting need to be registered by a parent or guardian. Places will be allocated on a first-come-first-served basis and must be booked in advance, by the deadline, as we can only accommodate a limited number of children and young people.

The Children's Programme and Young People @Yearly Meeting can be booked by individual session. These programmes do not include accommodation. Bookings for both programmes close on Sunday 16 June (to ensure the volunteers who plan programmes have the necessary information).

Junior Yearly Meeting this year will be held in Friends House alongside Summer Yearly Meeting. To retain the spirit of a residential event, accommodation will be provided for JYM attendees. There are two deadlines for coming to JYM: the first deadline is Sunday 24 March for Nominations and open places. The second is Sunday 7 April for the parent/guardian to confirm that the young person would like to come to JYM.

Full details can be found at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym).

### For young adults

#### Young Adults @ Yearly Meeting

Opportunities will be offered throughout Yearly Meeting for 18- to 35-year-olds as a way both to be part of Yearly Meeting and to be in a smaller community. This gives those participating the chance to prepare for and reflect on their own experience of Yearly Meeting.

More details will be available nearer the time of Yearly Meeting at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym).

## Booking information

### What do I need to do?

Register! From Monday 11 March you can do this online at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym). There is no charge to attend Yearly Meeting. But whether you're attending in person or online, registration by the deadline of Sunday 7 July is essential so that suitable preparations can be made.

You can find more information and follow updates online at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

Or join the conversation on:

- Facebook at [www.facebook.com/groups/quakerspace](http://www.facebook.com/groups/quakerspace)
- or Twitter [#bymevent](https://twitter.com/@bymevent) ([#YM2024](https://twitter.com/#YM2024)).

### Where can I stay?

Accommodation is not provided, if you plan to attend Yearly Meeting in London you will need to arrange your own accommodation. Information about possible options is available on the Yearly Meeting website at [www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings).

### Where can I get financial help?

Friends shouldn't be put off coming to Yearly Meeting because they can't afford it. If you need help with costs for Yearly Meeting, please speak to Friends in your local or area meeting or your worshipping community. They can often help. If they can't, you can ask for help from the Yearly Meeting bursary fund at [www.quaker.org.uk/ymbursary](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ymbursary).

### What do I do if I have access needs?

We want anyone who wants to come to Yearly Meeting to be able to do so. Please tell us if you have access needs so that we can make reasonable adjustments. You can let us know your access needs when you book.

Consider whether there is anyone else attending who may be able to support you. You should first speak to Friends in your meeting to see what help they can provide. If they cannot help, the Pastoral Care Group and staff will work with you to provide support where possible and make reasonable adjustments.

You can let us know your access needs when you book. You can also email [access@quaker.org.uk](mailto:access@quaker.org.uk) or call the Yearly Meeting Office on 020 7663 1040. Visit [www.quaker.org.uk/ym/help](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/help) to find out more about our accessibility measures.

### How can I help?

Yearly Meeting wouldn't be able to happen without help from Friends attending. There is a role for everyone, no matter your experience. You could volunteer to support pastoral care, be a doorkeeper or microphone steward, to review one of the programmes for children and young people or serve on Yearly Meeting Nominating Group. All help is greatly appreciated. You will be invited to complete the volunteer offer of service form once you have submitted your booking.

### I want to know more about Yearly Meeting

The best place to start is the Yearly Meeting website, where you will find the answer to most commonly asked questions. And we will update the website as more information becomes available. If you can't find the answer to your question, email the Yearly Meeting Office at [ym@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ym@quaker.org.uk) or call 020 7663 1040.

## Yearly Meeting 2025

### Save the date

#### Will you be attending Yearly Meeting 2025?

It will take place in London and online over the weekend of 23–26 May 2025.

Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. Quaker unity is based on shared understanding and a shared practice of silent worship – a communal stillness.

Quakers seek to experience God directly – internally, in relationships with others, and with the world. Local meetings for worship are open to all who wish to attend.

Quakers try to live with honesty and integrity. This means speaking truth to all, including people in positions of power. The Quaker commitment to peace arises from the conviction that love is at the heart of existence and that all human beings are unique and equal.

This leads Quakers to put faith into action by working locally and globally to change the systems that cause injustice and violent conflict.

Accessible versions of this document are available. Please contact the publications manager at [publications@quaker.org.uk](mailto:publications@quaker.org.uk) or call 020 7663 1162

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Registered charity number 1127633

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