

Agenda

Compiled for Yearly Meeting,
King's House, Manchester and online
18 July 2026

Yearly Meeting of Quakers in Britain



Agenda

Saturday 18 July, 9.30–13.00, with a break as the business allows

1. Opening Session

Opening Worship, welcomes and introductions

The role of Yearly Meeting representatives

Relevant reading:

[Call for appointments: Yearly Meeting representatives](#)

For information

2. Explanation of Practicalities and reminders of discipline

Elders at Yearly Meeting

Relevant reading:

[How Yearly Meeting works](#)

For information

3. Just a Minute

Friends serving on Agenda Planning Committee will explain how Quaker meetings and groups can engage with and support the creation of the Yearly Meeting Agenda.

Relevant reading:

[Sending minutes to Yearly Meeting](#)

For information

4. Receipt of Area Meeting minutes

Noting the move of a local meeting from Banbury & Evesham AM to Worcestershire & Shropshire AM

Friends from Banbury & Evesham AM have been considering the future of their area meeting. They have been working closely with Friends in neighbouring area meetings. Yearly Meeting is now asked to approve the transfer of Evesham local meeting from Banbury & Evesham to Worcestershire & Shropshire AM.

These minutes are received by Yearly Meeting following *Quaker faith & practice* 4.12. This was a responsibility held by Meeting for Sufferings, which has now been passed to Yearly Meeting.

Relevant reading:

[Minute to Yearly Meeting regarding Evesham transfer](#)

To receive and agree

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5. Welcome to visitors from other Yearly Meetings and Interchurch and Interfaith visitors. Our Yearly Meeting events are enriched by visitors from other yearly meetings, churches and faith and belief traditions.
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6. Friends Trusts Limited Report

Friends Trusts Limited (FTL) is a company limited by guarantee. It is the 'custodian trustee' or 'nominee' for Meetings and other bodies within Britain Yearly Meeting. This means that property and financial investments are held in FTL's name, on behalf of the Area Meetings and other bodies that occupy, use and maintain the buildings and spend the income that the investments generate.

Over 450 properties are held on behalf of more than 70 Area Meetings and other Quaker bodies. FTL holds more than 130 investments on behalf 60+ beneficial owners.

Most Area Meetings therefore need to liaise with Friends Trusts Ltd when purchasing, selling, leasing or otherwise disposing of property.

FTL also manages a number of Quaker trusts with a total value over £7 million. Their financial management is overseen by Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees Investment Committee, on which FTL is represented.

Relevant reading:

[Friends Trusts Limited Report to Britain Yearly Meeting 2026](#)

To receive

7. Report of Central Nominations Committee

Nominations, releases and amendments received.

The names of Friends nominated to serve on committees and groups for work outside Yearly Meeting in session have been available on the BYM website [and Sched] since 3 July 2026. There is therefore no need for nominees to leave the meeting.

Relevant reading:

[YM 2026 07 07 Nominations Paper - updated](#)

To make appointments and note releases/amendments

8. **New Ways into Membership: A proposal from a Working Group of Quaker Life Central Committee**

The only way to become a member of Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) is through a relationship with an area meeting. This doesn't fit the circumstances of many Friends – such as young people with no settled base and Friends whose Quaker identity and practice are genuine but located other than in a local community. A rapid growth of online communities, meetings and groups, alongside a lessening of Friends' ties with a 'place' of worship, brings a pressing need for more flexible ways into membership. Having explored these questions over a number of years from various angles, QLCC now proposes another path to membership.

Many Friends have their strongest Quaker connections and their main experience of Quaker fellowship, worship and practice with non-geographic groups, including online worshipping communities and other groups with a community and/or worship focus.

The proposal is to create an AM-like body, the "Anchor Meeting", with authority to confer membership on Friends associated with such groups, referred to as "Home Meetings". The primary purpose of each group need not be affected, other than to enable membership processes to be held within a framework of spiritual and pastoral care. This new virtual structure will replicate that of local and area meetings and their relationship with BYM, allowing non-geographic and geographic Quaker communities to co-exist equally. The model anticipates organic development of a fully integrated BYM structure of physical locations, online elements, and hybrid communities combining both. The proposals describe how all this could work

8. *New Ways into Membership, continued*

Relevant reading:

[New ways into membership: A proposal from a working group of Quaker Life Central Committee](#)

[Why belonging matters: A young Friend's thoughts on Membership](#)

We will hear prepared ministry to introduce this matter. We will consider the following questions:

1. Are we ready to agree to amend our process of membership to include ways into membership for Friends not attached to a geographic meeting?
2. Do we agree to enable non-geographic groups to set up an Anchor Meeting - a non-geographic Area Meeting - for these purposes?

To discern

Saturday 18 July, 14.30–16.30

9. Yearly Meeting will receive a report from **Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees**, focussing on the work governed by Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee. The Clerk and Assistant Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and the Clerk of Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee will introduce this item.

Relevant Reading:

[Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees, Minutes, 30 May 2026](#)

To receive.

There will be an opportunity to ask questions and share ministry.

10. Introduction to Reparation

The Quakers in Britain Trustees' Reparation Working Group (RWG) was established in autumn 2023, in response to minutes 27 & 33 of Yearly Meeting 2022, to examine British Quakers' historical involvement in enslavement and colonialism, and to consider what reparation requires of us today. The Group will be laid down in December 2027, by which time it will bring recommendations to British Friends.

The RWG comprises six members representing Quaker Central Committees or BYM Trustees, and two Friends from the Black, Brown and People of Colour Friends Fellowship, supported by co-opted specialists and a full-time Reparation Co-ordinator. Since 2023 its work has spanned four workstreams: historical research, networking and listening, theological research, and finance.

We will hear prepared ministry from the Co-clerks of the BYM Trustees Reparation Working Group.

Relevant Reading:

[RWG, Summary](#)

[RWG, Document in Advance for Yearly Meeting](#)

For information and to inform future discernment

11. Dates for YM in 2029

Agenda Planning Committee brings the following dates for Yearly Meeting events in 2029:

Saturday 17 February: Friends House and online

Friday 4 – Monday 7 May: Friends House and online

Saturday 21 July: outside London, venue TBC

Saturday 17 November: Friends House and online

To note and agree

12. Yearly Meeting Agenda for November 2026

The clerk and assistant clerk of Agenda Planning Committee will introduce the committee's initial view of the agenda for our next Yearly Meeting event, to be held on Saturday 21 November, at Friends House London and online.

For information

13. Worship to uphold those suffering for their faith

One of the responsibilities of Yearly Meeting in session, which has been taken on from Meeting for Sufferings, is to maintain a prison and court register. The register consists of the names of Friends who have been before the courts for matters of conscience, i.e. Friends who come into conflict with the law when acting under concern and bearing witness to the truth as revealed to them.

The purposes of recording an entry in the register are:

1. to enter the details of the matter into the permanent records of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), acknowledging Friends' witness and their willingness to face its consequences,
2. to remind ourselves that being a Quaker does not come without cost,
3. to record the Society's prayerful upholding of Friends who are suffering for their faith, and
4. to serve as a record of the actions of the State in restricting our freedom to worship and witness.

Inclusion of information in the prison and court register does not imply that Meeting for Sufferings itself has tested the Friend's concern and necessarily agrees with or condones their action.

We will spend time together in worship upholding those Friends who have been before the courts for matters of conscience. Our worship will be supported and introduced by the Yearly Meeting Elders.

14. Closing worship, joined by the children and young people's programmes.

Final minute

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.

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