



Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020

Listening, prophecy & reconciliation:
allyship in a climate emergency

**University of Bath,
1-7 August**





About Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020

Join us for a week of worship, fun, conversation, sharing, hope, games, learning, building community and above all challenge. Are you ready to live adventurously?

We will create the framework, but you will build the Gathering. There will be places for old Friends and new to meet and talk, for arts and craft activities, for physical activities, and for quiet reflection.

We will be an all-age Gathering and we will seek to listen and learn from Friends of all ages. The theme for the week has been discerned by young Friends on Junior Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee, and we have welcomed their leadership.

We will meet at the intersection of two crises: the climate crisis and the crisis of exclusion in our society. The two are interconnected: both require

us to speak truth to power (including the power we hold within ourselves) and to implement reform. Together, we will seek to create and celebrate an inclusive community at the Gathering, a loving container to hold us in our urgent concerns and provide strength as we move forward.

As we prepare to come together, at Yearly Meeting Gathering your Agenda Committee has taken time to reflect on the importance of active hope, and of the need to love ourselves and each other into a place where transformation is inevitable. As Quakers, we have testimonies, tools and established methods for engaging with difficult concerns. Let us use them together, joyfully.

Siobhan Haire, Clerk of Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee



What you need to know

Can I come?

Yes! Everyone in our Quaker community is welcome, whether in membership or not.

At Gatherings we also welcome family members and friends of Quakers attending.

What do I need to do?

Booking

The easiest way to book is online, at www.quaker.org.uk/ym.

When you book you will be able to choose the type of accommodation you require and pay a deposit to secure your place. The cost of your attendance consists of a Gathering fee (the cost to attend YMG), accommodation costs, and catering costs.

We ask everyone to 'live adventurously' and to build new community with new people as we share accommodation.

If you **need** to stay with others, for instance for family, access or safeguarding reasons, you must book together

and we will make sure this happens.

If you **prefer** to stay with others, we will try to meet your request. But we cannot guarantee to accommodate groups together. Please keep the size of your group to a minimum. Again, you must book together.

If you're unable to get online, please phone 020 7663 1040 and we will post a booking form to you.

Terms and conditions

Bookings will be open from 8 January to 30 April 2020. You will need to pay a deposit of 20 per cent at the time of booking, and full payment will be due by 14 May. If you are requesting a bursary, no deposit will be necessary.

Young Adults at YMG

Young Adults at Yearly Meeting is for 18- to 35-year-olds attending YMG. You will be part of the main sessions but will also connect regularly with your smaller community during the week. Young Adults at Yearly Meeting is not a fully facilitated programme, but we will offer regular sessions and Special Interest Groups that

give you the chance to prepare for and reflect on your experience of Yearly Meeting. To find out more please email youngadults@quaker.org.uk.

See page 10 for information about the Children & Young People's programmes.

What if I have access needs?

Everyone should be able to come to Yearly Meeting. All of our accommodation is close to our community space, and the campus is on level ground.

The University of Bath has a webpage giving details of the accessibility of the campus: visit www.bath.ac.uk/guides/claverton-down-campus-accessibility. They are working with AccessAble (previously DisabledGo) to improve their access guides.

There are a number of accessible bedrooms. If you have a carer or personal assistant, they will be accommodated close/next to you.

There will be a hearing loop system in most of our

meeting rooms. Speech-to-text reporting will be available in all Yearly Meeting sessions. The words will be shown immediately on a screen in the hall. We also hope to broadcast this directly to phones/tablets. We hope to share all visual presentations in advance with Friends who have visual impairments and/or ensure that slides are described during presentations.

When you book, you can tell us what you need or what will help.

You can discuss your needs further by contacting the YMG Accessibility Officer, Ann Murphy: email access@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1189.



What else do I need to think about?

There will be a lot of people at Gathering, and you will be in an unfamiliar environment. Gathering is busy and there will be many things to do. If you are self-catering, you will be sharing a kitchen. If you have half board, you will be eating in a large restaurant/café. Shops are about a 15-minute walk from our community spaces.

We will all be working hard to build a supportive community. There will be some Friends you know but lots of new people to meet too. Before you book, think about what usually helps you cope with your environment.

What might you need to put in place to help you get through YMG? Who is attending and who can support you?

You should first speak to Friends in your meeting to see what help and support they can provide. If they cannot help, the Pastoral Care Group will try to do so.

We will be providing some mobility scooters for use during Gathering. You will need to let us know if you need to use one.

If you think you might need support during YMG, here are the things you should do:

- contact your local or area meeting clerk to find out what help your area meeting can offer
- discuss your needs with the YMG Accessibility Officer, Ann Murphy (email access@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1189)
- when you book, tell us what you will need or what will help.

We will do our best to meet your needs, but there may be a limit to what we can provide.

What if I need financial help to come?

No Friend should be prevented from attending Yearly Meeting Gathering because they can't afford it.

If you need financial help please speak to Friends in your local or area meeting or your worshipping community. They may be able to help. If they can't, you can ask for financial support from the Yearly Meeting bursary

fund when you book. This will help towards travel and accommodation costs.

Donations to the bursary fund are very welcome. Details of how to give can be found at www.quaker.org.uk/ym, or you can contact Ann Pfeiffer (email annp@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1053).



What accommodation is available?

There are two types of accommodation available: en-suite and standard (with shared bathrooms). All accommodation is close to the buildings we will use for eating and community activities.

Other options are camping, or to come as a non-resident.

En-suite rooms

These are located in flats for between five and eighteen people. Each flat has a kitchen/communal space. Some of the rooms are suitable for sharing with children. There are a few twin/double rooms. If you need one of these, please say so on your booking.

Standard rooms

These are located in houses for between eleven and thirteen people. Accommodation is over three floors accessed by stairs only. There is a large kitchen/diner on the ground floor. Rooms are quite small and are not suitable for sharing with children. Toilets and bathrooms are shared by around six people.

Sharing with children

Children who were born on or after 1 September 2009 can sleep on the floor of a parent or sibling's room. We



will provide a camping mat and sleeping bag to those who can't bring their own.

Camping

The camping field is nearby, on campus. There will be toilets, showers and a cold water supply. There is some space in the neighbouring car park for caravans (no electric hook-up). Fires or open BBQs are not permitted. Vehicles will be able to access the site for set-up, then park in nearby car parks. Please check our website for further details as they become available.



What are the catering options?

If you stay in standard or en-suite accommodation you can choose between self-catering or half board (evening meal and breakfast). In line with our commitment to

sustainability, all food will be vegetarian or vegan. If you have specific dietary requirements please state these when you book.

How much will it cost?

The Gathering fee comprises three elements:

- a contribution to the cost of holding Gathering (£200 per person for the week – paid by everyone)
- your choice of accommodation type
- your choice of half board or self-catering.

Children and young people only pay for accommodation and catering. Part-time residents will be charged pro rata. For Junior Yearly Meeting there is also a fee of £40 for lunches, which are included in the programme.

Gathering fee	Adults	JYM 14–17 years	YPP 14–17 years	Own room 5–11 years	Sharing 5–11 years	Own room 0–4 years	Sharing 0–4 years
En-suite half board	£ 476	£ 307	£ 267	£ 249	£ 117	£ 162	£ 30
En-suite self-catering	£ 383	£ 202	£ 162	£ 162	£ 30	£ 162	£ 30
Standard half board	£ 416	£ 247	£ 207	£ 189	£ 117	£ 102	£ 30
Standard self-catering	£ 326	£ 142	£ 102	£ 102	£ 30	£ 102	£ 30
Campervan/Tent	£ 281	£ 115	£ 75	N/A	£ 15	N/A	£ 15

Can I come for the day?

Yes, but you will still need to book, even if you don't need accommodation. The fee for day visitors is £40 per day to a maximum of £200 for the week.

Free time

There will be two free afternoons – on Monday and Wednesday. You can choose to simply rest, go into Bath and enjoy the attractions of the city, or go for a walk or bike ride. There will also be a variety of activities on campus – crafts, arts, dance, yoga, board games, and maybe even an Alternative Olympics. Further information will be available in early 2020.



Children's and Young People's programmes

The Children's and Young People's programmes are a central part of YMG. The programmes encourage the spiritual and personal growth of children and young people in age-appropriate ways.

All under-18s will automatically have a place on their appropriate age programme (parents/guardians of under-5s will be contacted before YMG to see if there are any sessions they will not attend).

Under-18s must be accompanied by a responsible adult, e.g. a parent/guardian or other family member. For Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) someone from the area meeting or Quaker school may be asked to take responsibility. We will be offering some optional evening sessions for 5- to 11-year-olds.

Everyone attending YMG will be asked to respect the community guidelines that will be included in the information prior to the event; those attending the Young People's Programme and JYM are required to sign in advance to indicate their agreement to the community expectations for their age group.

Early booking is recommended.

For the Children's Programme a limited number of spaces are set aside for occasional day visitors. These places must be booked.



Children's Programme, 0–11 years

Children will have opportunities to be creative, have fun, worship together, play games, and hear stories. They will encounter and explore being Quaker in ways that are appropriate yet stretching and challenging for their age. The children are divided into five age groups. These groups will be decided after the booking deadline on the basis of numbers.

Young People's Programme, 11–14 years

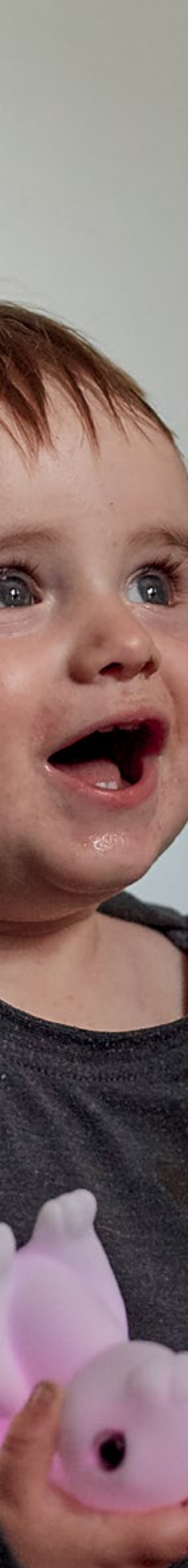
The Young People's Programme (YPP) enables young people to have fun while exploring their spirituality, experiencing Quaker practices and reflecting on their Quaker lives. This programme is arranged by a group of young people, with the support of adult volunteers and staff.

Junior Yearly Meeting, 14–17 years

JYM is about building relationships and making friends. It is arranged by a group of young people, with the support of adult volunteers and staff. The programme is theme-based and includes worship, visiting speakers, discussions, and attending Yearly Meeting sessions. Most of the places at JYM are available for nominees from area meetings, Quaker schools and European yearly meetings. Nominations information was circulated in November 2019. To find out about this, ask at your meeting or school who to speak to.



You can also book directly at www.quaker.org.uk/ym if you are not being nominated for a place.



Age	Birthdate	Name of programme	Registration deadline	Schedule	Day
0–11 years	On or after 01/09/08	Children's Programme	30 April 2020	Mornings: Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. Afternoons: Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday. Optional evening activities will run for 5–11s on Monday and Wednesday.	Yes
11–14 years	Between 01/09/05 and 31/08/08	Young People's Programme	30 April 2020	Sunday morning to Friday lunchtime except on Monday and Wednesday afternoons and Thursday evening. There is an optional session on Tuesday evening.	Yes
14–17 years	Between 01/09/02 and 31/08/05	Junior Yearly Meeting	Nominations from AMs, Quaker schools and European YMs need to be received by 10 March 2020.	Sunday morning to Friday lunchtime. JYM will not run on Monday and Wednesday afternoons, Tuesday morning or Thursday evening. Programme includes daily packed lunches.	No



The theme of Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020

Where we have privilege we can choose how to use it: we must choose carefully.

From Minute 33 of Yearly Meeting 2019

The title of YMG 2020 is 'Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency'. Since Yearly Meeting 2019, Friends in Britain have been sitting with the questions that arose from our consideration of privilege, and continue to thresh our concerns in local and area meetings and other settings. We plan to come together at Yearly Meeting Gathering 2020 with hearts and minds prepared, to take our corporate discernment forward. How can we walk alongside others as allies in a climate emergency? What can we contribute as Quakers to the work already being done?

Where are you and where is your local/area meeting (or other Quaker community) in relation to these concerns?

Questions for reflection

As you explore the suggested resources listed below, and others, you might want to ask yourself some questions. There are several ways to explore the material: alone, in a study group, through worship sharing, by keeping a journal, in a creative activity, or by joining a conversation on social media.

a) Reflecting on the title of the Gathering, the following questions arise:

- To whom are we listening?
- Who has not yet been heard? What prevents us from hearing them?
- Do we hear a prophetic voice? What is it saying to us?
- With whom must we be reconciled?
- Are we reconciled within ourselves? Within our Quaker community? With others? With the Light/the Spirit/God?
- What are Quakers offering in the way of allyship?

Most importantly, how do we transform injustice within ourselves, corporately within our Society, and in the world around us?

What other questions arise for you?

b) Below you will find questions to support a three-session study group in the lead-up to Yearly Meeting Gathering. You might want to gather with local Friends (or online) to consider these questions together. Your study group might identify other resources (and other questions) that you find helpful. The questions set out below are offered as suggestions for a way in.

Note: Please agree reading material in advance. There are a large number of resources and it is unlikely your group will want to read everything.



Session 1: Gathering

What will we bring to YMG in August?

What work have we done since YM 2019?

How do we create a loving and inclusive Gathering?

Do you feel comfortable and welcome at Gathering?

What might other Friends find difficult about attending Gathering?

Session 2: Exploring

What does our Quaker community look like?

What is our vision for radical inclusion?

What is our place in the world?

What, if anything, is difficult about working together?

What is in our Quaker toolkit/Quaker heritage that helps us face the challenges before us?

Session 3: Preparing for action

What have we learned that has changed us?

Where are we going?

What are we leaving behind?

In the work of transformation, can we find joy?; friendship?; love?

What is our unique Quaker contribution to the challenges we face?

You and your local group might be able to share your learning and insights with Friends at the Gathering.

Suggested resources

The following resources can help Friends prepare for Gathering. Further resources will be published on the Quakers in Britain website as August 2020 approaches; updates can be accessed at www.quaker.org.uk/ym.

Quaker resources

- 1) *Quaker faith & practice*: chapters 20, 23 and 25
- 2) Minutes of Yearly Meeting 2019:
www.quaker.org.uk/ymprep
- 3) Quaker Peace & Social Witness's climate activism and advocacy work. Report for Meeting for Sufferings, October 2019: www.quaker.org.uk/ymprep
- 4) 'Philosophy for Communities for Quakers': <https://together.woodbrooke.org.uk/asset.php?a=WOW6PI>
- 5) The Canterbury Commitment (Minute 36 of YMG 2011): www.quaker.org.uk/ymprep
- 6) Edwina Peart's blog on diversity within BYM:
www.quaker.org.uk/blog/embracing-diversity
- 7) Diversity & Inclusion. Report to Meeting for Sufferings, April 2019: www.quaker.org.uk/ymprep
- 8) Three podcasts called 'A Quaker take...'
www.quaker.org.uk/podcast:
 - on allyship
 - on climate change
 - on climate activism.

Other resources

- 1) *Active hope: how to face the mess we're in without going crazy*. Joanna Macy and Chris Johnstone (2012). Novato, CA: New World Library. Visit www.activehope.info/joanna-macy.html.
- 2) United Nations Sustainable Development Goals: www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals.
- 3) Extinction Rebellion from a Quaker perspective: www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/our-stories/experiencing-extinction-rebellion-s-autumn-uprising-as-a-green-spirit.
- 4) An open letter to Extinction Rebellion by grassroots collective Wretched of the Earth: www.redpepper.org.uk/an-open-letter-to-extinction-rebellion.
- 5) Discussion of the Gender Recognition Act: www.gires.org.uk/the-gender-recognition-act-discussion-july-2019.
- 6) 'A "Green New Deal" needs to be global, not local' by Open Democracy: www.opendemocracy.net/en/opendemocracyuk/a-green-new-deal-needs-to-be-global-not-local.
- 7) 'Why migrant justice is climate justice', in Teen Vogue: www.teenvogue.com/story/activists-explain-why-migrant-justice-is-climate-justice.
- 8) 'Let them drown: the violence of othering in a warming world' by Naomi Klein, in London Review of Books: www.lrb.co.uk/v38/n11/naomi-klein/let-them-drown.

Provisional outline programme

Saturday 1 – Friday 7 August

For updates to this programme please visit www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Key

- Yearly Meeting sessions
- Special Interest Meetings
- Community activities

- Opportunity for worship
- Children & Young People
- Hospitality

	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	
08:00		Larks including early morning worship	Larks including early morning worship	Larks including early morning worship	Larks including early morning worship	Larks including early morning worship	Larks including early morning worship	08:00
08:30								08:30
09:00			0-14 drop-off/sign in	0-14 drop-off/sign in	0-14 sign in	0-14 drop-off/sign in	0-14 drop-off/sign in	09:00
09:30		Appoint clerks and meeting for worship	Yearly Meeting session 3	Yearly Meeting session 4	Yearly Meeting session 5	Yearly Meeting session 6	Yearly Meeting session 7 Epistle and minutes	09:30
10:00		0-14 drop-off/sign in						10:00
10:30		Required business						10:30
11:00		Introduction						11:00
11:30								11:30
12:00								12:00
12:30		0-11 pick-up	0-11 pick-up	0-11 pick-up	0-11 pick-up	0-11 pick-up	0-11 pick-up	12:30
13:00		Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Lunch	Meeting for leaving and departures	13:00
13:30								13:30
14:00		0-14 drop-off/sign in	Free time	0-14 drop-off/sign in	Free time	0-14 drop-off/sign in		14:00
14:30		Yearly Meeting session 2		Special Interest Meetings and workshops		Special Interest Meetings and workshops		14:30
15:00	Arrivals							15:00
15:30								15:30
16:00		0-11 pick-up		0-11 pick-up		0-11 pick-up		16:00
16:30								16:30
17:00								17:00
17:30	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper	Supper		17:30
18:00								18:00
18:30								18:30
19:00		11-14 sign in	5-14 drop-off/sign in	11-14 drop-off/sign in	5-14 drop-off/sign in	All age community		19:00
19:30		Community activities including Special Interest Meetings and Groups Fair	Community activities including Swarthmore Lecture	Community activities including George Gorman Lecture and Special Interest Meetings	Community activities including Salter Lecture and Special Interest Meetings			19:30
20:00								20:00
20:30			5-11 pick-up		5-11 pick-up			20:30
21:00		Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue	Epilogue			21:00
21:30								21:30
22:00								22:00
22:30		Owls	Owls	Owls	Owls			22:30
23:00								23:00



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Follow us on Twitter [@BritishQuakers](https://twitter.com/BritishQuakers) or find Quakers in Britain on Facebook.
www.quaker.org.uk/ym T: 020 7663 1040



Coming to YMIG?

Yearly Meeting Gathering is when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, to make decisions and to spend time as a community. This year we will continue to look at how we live out our faith in the world.

Follow YMIG 2020

Online

quaker.org.uk/ym

Facebook

facebook.com/bymeevent

Twitter

@bymeevent

#YMIG2020

Register your intention to come to YMIG online at <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/bym>, or by phone on 020 7663 1040.





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