



# Being Friends Together

a learning project from Woodbrooke and Quaker Life

Supporting Quaker meetings in their ongoing  
development as living communities of faithful people

<http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>



## *Being Friends Together* involves:

- an easy-to-use online resource, packed with
  - › activities and ideas from previous Quaker learning projects
  - › some newly written and recorded material
  - › suggestions for useful websites, courses and actions that meetings can engage with
- a simple discernment process to help meetings identify where to focus energy and attention first, supported by optional visits from experienced Friends or do-it-yourself guidance on the website.

## Supporting you in your learning as a meeting

We hope that *Being Friends Together* will help Friends in meetings to:

- develop spiritually, both as individuals and meetings
- learn about aspects of the Quaker and Christian traditions
- develop and express their sense of Quaker identity
- grow as communities
- feel supported to live out Quaker testimony in their lives and localities
- integrate all generations into the life of meetings.

## Ways In

Designed to help meetings learn and explore together in a variety of modes, there are several different ways in to *Being Friends Together*:

- follow one of the ready-made pathways that offer a series of linked learning sessions on a specific topic,
- search for a single learning session using keywords,
- check out the featured activity.

Whichever approach you choose, *Being Friends Together* offers the opportunity for community learning, which has the potential to enrich your meeting's life, worship and witness.



# The ready-made pathways are organised within four themes:

## Growing as community together

- Being Community: welcome, warmth and wholeness
- Gifts, Ministry and Leadership
- Knowing Each Other in the Things that are Eternal... and Everyday

## Deepening the life of the Spirit together

- Exploring Quaker Spirituality
- The Importance of Worship
- Spiritual Practice and Prayer

## Exploring our living tradition together

- Quaker Approaches to Jesus and the Bible
- Quaker Stories, History and Roots
- The Quaker Way: rooted in Christianity, open to new light

## Being in the world together

- A Brief Introduction to Testimony
- Economic Justice
- Peace
- Sustainability

Each pathway is made up of linked steps designed to help you progress in your learning on that topic. There are several options for learning activities at each step – some for adults, some for children, and some for all ages together – so you can choose what suits your meeting.

You can search the pathways by:

- what you would like to focus on – a theme
- how you would like to learn together – a learning approach
- who is in your group – the people, for example adults or all ages, newcomers or experienced Friends

or a **combination** of these.



# Finding your way – a brief discernment process

*Being Friends Together* offers a simple process to help you reflect on where you are as a meeting and identify where you would like to focus your energy and attention when planning your meeting's learning. There are two ways of engaging with this simple discernment process:

## A visit

This would involve two experienced Friends visiting your meeting to help you discern the path of exploration for your meeting and introduce you to the *Being Friends Together* online resource. These Friends can also offer the option of a continuing, supportive relationship with your meeting for an agreed period of time afterwards.

## A brief do-it-yourself discernment process

We have also created a simple do-it-yourself version of the *Being Friends Together* discernment process for you to download and work through as a meeting.

## To find out more...

To find out more, go and explore *Being Friends Together* online! Some resources are available to look at free of charge, but to access to the full range of *Being Friends Together* resources, local meetings will need to take out a subscription at a cost of £35 per year. Just follow the prompts on the website to subscribe. You can also fill in the online form to ask about a visit from *Being Friends Together* facilitators.

Go to <http://together.woodbrooke.org.uk>

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*Being Friends Together* is a joint project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (registered charity number 313816) and Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (registered charity number 1127633).