

Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

Issue 14: Summer 2025



Welcome to the summer issue!

Welcome to this Summer 2025 edition of Clerks' Update. It is a communication channel for clerks of local and area meetings and Quaker communities. You can view an archive of past messages on our website at www.quaker.org.uk/clerks-update.

Information for Quaker clerks

Quaker employers' resources

Quaker Life provides guidance and advice for Quaker communities on employment and engaging volunteers or workers on a self-employed basis. The resources are updated annually and are now available on the Quaker website, www.quaker.org.uk/employers.

This year there have been significant changes to our guidance on:

- Sexual harassment in the workplace, see sections 1.4 and 1.7 of the [Quaker employers' resource](#).
- There is a new [Lone Working template policy](#).
- A review is almost complete of the occupancy agreements. Details will be sent in the next edition of [Governance Update](#) in July.
- Better guidance for Quaker communities on accommodation as a taxable benefit for workers with provided accommodation.

This will be added to the website and the full details sent via Governance Update.

The employers' resource and documents are provided to support good employment practice in Quaker charities. We encourage all Quaker charities to use them.

If you need support or have questions about good practice for employment or volunteering please contact, supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk.



Abbreviations: BYM – Britain Yearly Meeting; CCQW – Crynwyr Cymru – Quakers in Wales; LM – local meeting; AM – area meeting; YM – Yearly Meeting; QLCC – Quaker Life Central Committee; FWCC – Friends World Committee for Consultation

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Quaker Life Representative Council

A message from the Convenors

After a fallow year Quaker Life Representative Council (QLRC) is sending up new shoots, active again as a community of Friends to share, energise and inspire, and as a means of communicating between worshipping communities like Local and Area Meetings and Quakers in Britain central staff and committees.

Reps are invited to join a brief online workshop to reconnect and refresh on:

- Fri 13 June 12:30 – 13:30, or
- Weds 18 June 19:30 – 20:30

To register to attend **Fri 13 June** workshop, please go to:

<https://quaker.zoom.us/meeting/register/M6Za-NwKSWe2Ct4QVKbgfw>

To register to attend **Weds 18 June** workshop, please go to:

<https://quaker.zoom.us/meeting/register/kvHgkVJ2RA6tr-WIBglcfw>

We're involved in planning the Quaker Life Regional Days which will be taking place in the autumn. These will focus on support for Quaker communities and how this can be best provided in the future. We'd welcome your input in planning. Reps are invited to complete this short survey by the end of June: <https://forms.office.com/e/KKru05i218>.

Jen Neal and Katie Evans
QLRC Co-convenors

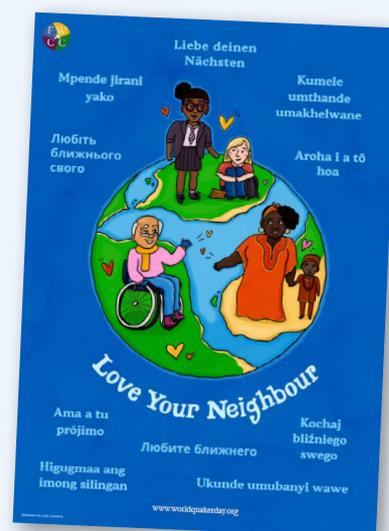
Outreach and Quaker Week

Quaker Week 2025 and outreach resources

This year **Quaker Week** will be **27 Sept to 5 Oct**. We are adopting the **World Quaker Day** theme of 'Love your neighbour' for Quaker Week.

In June we will be sending out small sample packs of outreach resources to all meetings, which will include the materials that we've developed over the last three years. The packs will include some of the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) posters. One is designed to be used to publicise events, with space for Friends to add details of what they are doing, and the other has 'Love your neighbour' in different languages. We also have a new version of the leaflet 'Your first time in a Quaker Meeting' which will be included.

An order form link will also be shared in June to order additional resources you may require, including larger sizes of the posters, which we'll only be sending out as A4 in the sample packs. If you order using this link by 31 July, these will be delivered in the first week of September.



Outreach network meetings

Our monthly online network sessions are a chance to share ideas about outreach and to learn from each other. Everyone is welcome.

You can now register for sessions on [Monday 9 June, 12:30-1:30pm](#) and [Monday 14 July, 7.30pm](#).

We have a WhatsApp group for anyone interested in keeping in touch about outreach between the network sessions. Please email naomim@quaker.org.uk with your mobile number if you would like to join. Although not everyone uses WhatsApp, the group has been set up in response to Friends saying it would be useful. If you are part of the group, please feel free to raise any questions you have or to share ideas or news of outreach activities.



Pride resources

We have a great range of free outreach resources available for Pride and other events. We have an [online form](#) for you to order some eye-catching badges, stickers and leaflets.

Meeting Records Communication and Guidance

On 1 May Quakers in Britain, Information Governance Manager (Megan Guest) and Archivist (Annie Lord) hosted a special interest meeting for Record Custodians. This meeting was aimed at Record Custodians as well as Clerks and other role holders responsible for managing meeting records. The session covered the current guidance for Record Custodians, commonly asked questions, and our plans for updating the guidance in 2026. After receiving some feedback, it has been decided to set up a mailing list for all those who wish to receive communications relating to archives and records guidance and training. The list will also be a space to ask questions and engage in discussion with fellow role holders.



You can subscribe to the mailing list by contacting Annie or Meg at library@quaker.org.uk.

The National Churches Survey: giving every church a voice

The National Churches Trust is carrying out a survey to help policymakers, the media, and the wider public better understand the challenges churches face and to highlight the vital work that churches do.

This survey has the support of denominations, faith, and heritage groups across the country, and you are invited to take part. They say: *“Your response will provide essential evidence to build a clearer picture – to tell a stronger, more informed story about your church, and others like it, so that together we can address some of the biggest challenges facing churches and help ensure their future.”*

Please complete The National Churches Survey and encourage others you know to join in too. The more churches that take part, the more impactful it will be.

The survey is live from 6 May to 30 June.

- In English: Take part in the survey and find out more information at www.nationalchurchestrust.org/survey
- In Welsh: www.nationalchurchestrust.org/arolwg



Youth, Children and Families

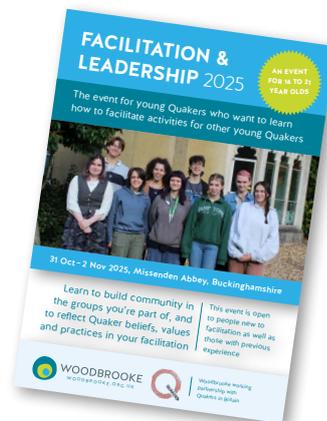
Facilitation and Leadership

31 October to 2 November 2025, Missenden Abbey in Buckinghamshire

Please [share the details of this year's Facilitation and Leadership](#) residential course with anyone who currently works with the young people in your Quaker community. This event is for 18-21 years old Quakers who want to learn how to facilitate activities for other young Quakers. The cost is £175 (includes food and accommodation).

Bookings are open until **Tuesday 16 September**.

To book visit: <https://ycf.quaker.org.uk/fl>



Events

Trustee and treasurer conference 2025

12 July, Friends House, Euston and online, 10am to 4.30pm

Quakers in Britain is holding a day conference to bring together trustees and treasurers from across Britain Yearly Meeting. The conference will look at things that are relevant in the life of Quaker communities to ensure that they are resilient and sustainable in today's world.

There will be some time together as a whole group and a mixture of workshops and discussion spaces. With maximum participation there will be two places per AM or charity and we hope that this will help all get the most out of the event.

Throughout the day there will be refreshments and a cold lunch provided.

Find out more and book your place at, www.quaker.org.uk/events/t-t-july-2025.



Faith in action in the age of permacrisis

20-22 June 2025

Chant d'Oiseau, Avenue des Fransiscains, 1150 Brussels

Join this weekend conference in Brussels, Faith in action in an age of permacrisis. Jointly organised by the Quaker Council for European Affairs and Quaker Peace & Social Witness, it is an opportunity to explore the challenges we all face and to reflect together on how we respond to them, individually and collectively.

Register now at: www.qcea.org/events/faith-in-action-in-an-age-of-permacrisis



Quaker Life Regional Days – Save the Dates

This Autumn, Quaker Life will be hosting a series of all-age days across Britain to gather and share ideas about what Quakers in Britain can do in the next 5 years to strengthen and invigorate our worshipping communities.

- We will explore our longer-term vision through “Our faith in the future”, and the learning from the Future of British Quakerism Conference.
- We will consult on how the support offered by Britain Yearly Meeting, Woodbrooke, and Quaker Recognised Bodies can best be used to help us thrive and grow. This will be part of the consultation process for developing “Approaches to the future; Faith, Inclusion and Growth – the Integrated Strategy for Supporting Quaker Communities 2026 – 2030”
- We will consider how we can use co-creation between friends, different Quaker communities, and staff to inform what we do.
- We will spend time together in worship, community and fun.

We will be holding 6 days “in the room”, and one online event. We will initially offer places to the Quaker Life Representatives from each area meeting, and to some other Quaker Communities and Quaker Recognised bodies, as well as to children, young people and families. We will then ask for expressions of interest from a wider group of participants.

We expect to send out more details in early July. The dates are:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Sat 13 September – London Friends House | Sat 8 November – Birmingham Priory Rooms |
| Sat 27 September – Manchester Mount Street | Sat 15 November – Darlington Meeting House |
| Sat 27 September – Bristol Central Meeting House | Sat 22 November – Online |
| Sat 25 October – Edinburgh Central Meeting House | |

Hope for the future in dark and difficult times; working with other faiths and churches

Friday 13 March to Sunday 15 March 2026
The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Please appoint a representative from your Area Meeting to attend this conference, organised jointly by Woodbrooke and the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR). The aim of the conference is to support Friends, Area Meetings and Local Meetings in their work with other faiths and churches (QF&P 9.08 – 9.21). Feedback from area meetings’ two years ago was that more time was needed to find the right person to attend – hence this early notice. The conference is from 13 to 15 March 2026. The deadline for registration of AM reps is 5 January, after which time it will be open to other Friends.

Please see and [share the event flyer](#) and follow the link to further information on the Woodbrooke website www.woodbrooke.org.uk/QCCIRCon.



Training and Learning from Woodbrooke Learning



Property Review and Renewal Series

June to October

Woodbrooke is running a series of online sessions exploring property review and renewal, where we explore how meetings can approach property decisions with care and discernment.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/PropertyReview



Simpler Meetings Series

September to October

The Simpler Meetings Series 2025, run in partnership by Woodbrooke and Quakers in Britain, allows for a communal space to learn and reflect about doing things differently that can help to re-energise your Quaker Meeting as a worshipful community. The series was originally launched in 2021 and is open to all. It explores how simplifying Quaker Meetings can “release Friends’ energy to follow our leading” ([Britain Yearly Meeting 2023, Minute 17](#)).

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/SimplerMeetings



Being a Quaker Clerk: Residential Weekend

Friday 7 November to Sunday 9 November

The Hayes, Swanwick, Derbyshire

Have you recently taken on a clerking role or are you about to begin one? Join this Woodbrooke residential weekend for in-person, in-depth training and reflection on the core aspects of being a Quaker Clerk, whether in person, online or blended.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/being-a-quaker-clerk-residential-weekend



Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care in a Nutshell

Saturday 22 November, 10:00-16:00

In our ever-changing world, what is the call to us as Quakers with eldership and or pastoral care responsibilities? This online Woodbrooke day course is an opportunity for those new or returning to these core roles for our Meetings to consider together how to respond to this call.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/spiritual-nurture-and-pastoral-care-in-a-nutshell



Grants

Hope Grants

These are small grants to improve the quality of life of Quaker members and attenders who are unemployed or unable to make a living wage. Friends in financial need can apply for a grant of up to £750 towards items or activities that will improve their quality of life. More information and the application form are available from our website: www.quaker.org.uk/hopegrants.

Pastoral Care Grants

These grants supplement funds available to pastoral care role-holders locally and can be used in situations of hardship and suffering through old age, or to support women Friends in need. Please contact the Grants Programme Officer (grants@quaker.org.uk 020 7663 1053) for further information and an application form.

Quaker work

Making an impact: Stories from our work

Following on from Yearly Meeting, we've produced **eighteen 'Stories from Our Work'** showing the breadth of work carried out by Quakers in Britain. From peacemaking in Palestine to working with a small local meeting in Scotland, we hope these stories will inspire Friends about the work discerned by us all. Please share with Friends in your meeting.

