

Clerks Update

A newsletter from Quaker Life

Issue 19: Autumn 2026



Welcome to the autumn issue!

Welcome to issue 19 of Clerks' Update, Autumn 2026. 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.



Photo by Jeremy Thomas on Unsplash

Information for Quaker clerks

Governance Gold

Governance Gold is a series of documents that give brief details of changes to Quaker practice or other governance matters of relevance to clerks of local and area communities. You can find all Governance Gold past issues in a single document on the Quakers in Britain website, www.quaker.org.uk/clerks. There are two new Governance Gold updates that we are bringing to you in this edition of Clerks Update.

Prison & Court Register Update – Governance Gold 12 (replaces 10)

Yearly Meeting is now responsible for the recording of the names of Friends who have been brought before the courts for matters of conscience. Governance Gold 12 has been published with new guidance for area meetings.

www.quaker.org.uk/documents/governance-gold-12-september-2026

Contact lists and the register of members – Governance Gold 13

Quakers in Britain staff have done some thinking about the various lists that Quaker charities hold as membership organisations. Local and area meetings hold sensitive information and some of it needs to be held and managed in different ways depending on why we are holding it. Governance Gold 13 is new guidance that deals with membership lists and area meeting contact or address lists.

www.quaker.org.uk/documents/governance-gold-13-september-2026

We hope that this brief resource will be helpful and aid conversations and decisions locally. If your area meeting or charity needs help to work through challenges related to holding information, please get in touch with your local development worker or by contacting 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

Published by Britain Yearly Meeting, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.
Registered charity no. 1127633

Kairos II Declaration

Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC) is asking meetings to consider the Kairos II declaration from Palestinian Christians, a letter to the global Christian community asking for 'costly solidarity' with people in Palestine. The letter from QPSWCC, the Kairos II declaration itself, and additional resources to help with discernment are attached. They are also on our website at www.quaker.org.uk/documents/kairos-ii-letter-to-area-meetings-september-2026.

In the letter, meetings are asked to discern their responses to the declaration and send them to QPSWCC (via Oliver Robertson as secretary), qpsw@quaker.org.uk. Please **share this with local meeting clerks** so that local discernment can happen before AMs write and send minutes. Once we begin to receive minutes, QPSWCC will decide about when it will consider the minutes and discern if there is anything nationally that we need to do. When a date for QPSWCC discernment is confirmed, meetings will be informed so that if they haven't yet completed their discernment they can do so.

Week of Prayer for World Peace

Now in its fifty-first year, the Week of Prayer for World Peace (WPWP) will take place from Sunday, 11 to Sunday, 18 October. Quakers in Britain are partners in the initiative which, as ever, aims to bring together people of faith to pray for peace in the world.



To register to take part in the annual online WPWP Gathering at 3.30pm on 11 October go to:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/T_No8XyBQ3-A7o8qpsrJIQ.

If you'd like a digital copy of this year's thought-provoking prayer resource booklet, please email wpwp2021@yahoo.com. For a paper copy, please contact Dixe Wills, Quakers in Britain's Peace Campaigns Coordinator, at dixew@quaker.org.uk.

Changes to DBS from 1 September 2026

From 1 September 2026, there was a change to the rules that determine when someone working with children is carrying out "regulated activity" for DBS purposes. The change removes the previous exemption that allowed some roles to fall outside regulated activity simply because the volunteer was supervised.

The important message for Quaker meetings, children's programmes and youth activities is: there is no need to panic, and not every volunteer will need a new DBS check. Your AM safeguarding coordinator will have already been sent the information from the BYM Safeguarding Officer with details of the change and you are encouraged to get in touch with them to discuss.

If you have questions, please contact safe@quaker.org.uk.

■ DBS changes from 1 September 2026

Outreach, welcome and belonging

Quaker Week runs from 26 September to 4 October, and our theme is “Coming to Worship”. At a time when many people are looking for stillness, meaning and community, Quaker Week is an opportunity to invite others to experience worship for themselves. Visit: www.quaker.org.uk/outreach.

Here is a link to our video playlist for [Quaker Week 2026 – YouTube](#). This will be populated during Quaker Week with videos that you can share on your social media or link to on your website.

Please do email us at outreach@quaker.org.uk to let us know about your Quaker Week activities – we’d love to hear from you.

There are now order forms available for [outreach resources](#), for [posters](#), and for [bilingual and Welsh language outreach resources](#). There is also an order form to request resources for work with [children and young people](#), and more general Quaker resources such as [leaflets for weddings and funerals](#). We hope that this makes it easy for you to order materials and also gives you a good sense of the range of resources available. For any materials not included on these forms, including banners, please email outreach@quaker.org.uk.

Our outreach network sessions continue to run every month, alternating between a session at lunchtime and a session on an evening. You can now register for the next sessions on [Monday 5 October from 7:30-8:30pm](#), and [Monday 9 November from 12:30-1:30pm](#). October will be an open session to bring any questions you may have, and in November we’ll be exploring outreach and the arts with members of [Quaker Arts Network](#). We’d love to see you there.



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Free Will Offer

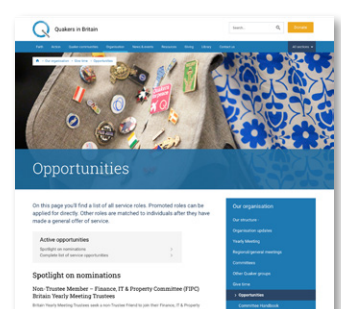
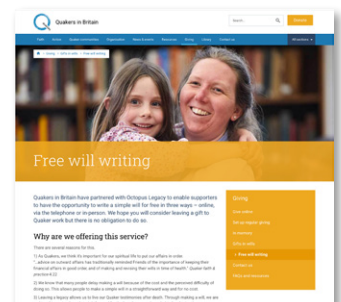
Quakers in Britain has a free will service that we offer in conjunction with Octopus Legacy. If any Friends have been considering writing or updating their will, then this may be a useful service.

For more information go to, www.quaker.org.uk/free-will-writing.

Quaker service opportunity

Central Nominations Committee (CNC) is looking for Friends to serve on our national committees. There are a variety of roles that Friends can express interest to serve in. CNC will discern from the Friends who have said they would be willing. This time they are very interested to hear from Friends that could offer service on Finance, IT & Property Committee, which is a sub-committee of Britain Yearly Meeting trustees.

Having a financial, buildings or technical background is not necessary but being curious and willing to ask questions is vital. If you have some understanding of how charities work and would like a new challenge, please look on the website to find out more and express interest, www.quaker.org.uk/service-opportunities.



Friends Trusts Limited invites Friends to share their experience

Friends Trusts Ltd (FTL) holds the property title for most Quaker meeting houses and other property on behalf of area meetings and Quaker charities.

It is an independent company with a body of trustees appointed by Yearly Meeting in session and staffed by QiB employees.

Aware of the stresses and strains on Friends managing property, FTL trustees are keen to support AM trustees in property ownership and management as best they can. This survey is to help FTL's understanding of what is working and areas that could be improved or support prioritised.

Please complete the survey using this link, <https://forms.office.com/e/drNL0eAwsI>, or scan the QR code. Please get in touch to discuss any property issues, friendstrusts@quaker.org.uk.

Friends Trusts Limited (FTL):
Survey of Area and Local Meetings



Youth, Children and Families

Children and young people attending Yearly Meeting, November sessions

Children and young people are warmly invited to be part of Yearly Meeting on **Saturday, 21 November 2026**. There will be a dedicated children's programme, offering a fun, welcoming and age-appropriate space to explore, play, reflect and build community together.



Older teens will also be able to take part through the accompaniment programme, shaped in a similar way to the opportunity offered at the Manchester event in July. This will support young people to engage with the wider Yearly Meeting, connect with one another and experience the gathering as part of the wider Quaker community. It will offer a supportive environment to enable older teens to take part in Yearly Meeting at the pace and depth that suits them.

These are not residential programmes and Britain Yearly Meeting cannot take responsibility for participants outside of attended sessions. Parents and carers will need to make appropriate arrangements to enable participants to attend; this may include transport, accommodation and food, as well as supervision by an appropriate adult outside of sessions if they are not also attending.

Places are limited and booking is essential. We encourage families to book early so that children and young people can share in a day that promises to be fun, community building and spiritually enriching. Booking closes on Monday 2 November.

Link to the information and booking page: www.quaker.org.uk/ym/0-18s

Events

Treasurer and Collector 2026 Zoom Update

If you are a treasurer or collector for your meeting, we invite you to join Paul Parker, Paul Whitehouse, and the fundraising team for the October Treasurer Update on Zoom. This annual session is a chance to hear the latest on BYM's finances, including the launch of the new contribution leaflet designed to support your work locally.

There will be space to discuss key issues around contributions in breakout groups, share insights with other treasurers, and ask questions. We hope you'll leave feeling equipped and encouraged to share what you've learned with your local meeting, helping Friends feel more confident and inspired to give. You can choose from three dates—each session will cover the same content, so you only need to attend one. Book your spot here, <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/treasurer-zoom-updates-2026>.

Finding Your Confident Quaker Voice – an interactive online workshop

Four, weekly online sessions from 20 October, 7-8:30pm

Do you sometimes struggle to speak with confidence about Quaker values, beliefs, and practices?

This friendly online workshop will help you find words for what matters to you, explore how Quaker faith shapes your life, and gain confidence in sharing your perspective with others.

Together we will:

- Reflect on our own Quaker journey
- Explore how to talk about Quaker faith in everyday conversations
- Practise speaking with authenticity and confidence
- Learn from one another's experiences

Whether you are new to Quakers or have been involved for many years, this workshop offers a supportive space to develop your voice and connect with others. Join Quaker Life development workers online and discover new confidence in speaking as a Quaker.

Register to join, https://quaker.zoom.us/meeting/register/Ox8Xja_1SW6HmPP48YbY3A.

Meeting House Matters – event on property sustainability

Wednesday, 21 November, 10am to 4pm, Hammersmith LM, London

Quakers in Britain is holding a Meeting House Matters event on property. The event will have building sustainability as a theme and will look at new properties, such as Hammersmith as well as exploring possibilities for retrofitting to older properties.

The Quaker Canterbury Commitment from 2011 was the start of a long-term commitment to decarbonising. Property, being Quakers biggest source of carbon emissions is a key place for improvements to be made. Come and hear success stories, have a tour of Hammersmith Meeting House to see the possibilities and learn what could be possible in your premises.

To attend at the venue, fill in this booking form, <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/mhm-26>.

Truth and repair – our Quaker journey towards justice

23 October 2026, 10am to 5:30pm,
Friends House, Euston, London

The BYM Trustees' Reparation Working Group invites Friends to join a day of learning, reflection, and discernment through to the findings of the Historical and Theological Workstreams. We start with the call to action in Minutes 27 and 33 of Yearly Meeting 2022:

"Love and justice require us to tell the truth, as best we can, about historic and contemporary injustices. We encourage local and area meetings to begin, or continue, work to understand how Quakers and Quaker structures benefitted from the transatlantic slave trade."

"We have heard that love and justice also require us to consider deeply how the Society of Friends in Britain might make financial and other reparation for our part in the wrongs of the Transatlantic Slave Trade."

This conference will offer space not only to confront discomforting histories, but also to consider how truth-telling, accountability, and spiritual discernment can help shape more hopeful and faithful futures. The learnings shared at this conference will help Friends prepare for discussions on reparation at November Yearly Meeting.

To register go to, www.quaker.org.uk/events/truth-and-repair-our-quaker-journey-towards-justice



Strong, Loving Communities

Saturday 14 November, 10.00am to 4.30pm, Selly Oak Meeting House, Birmingham

How can we strengthen trust and connection within Quaker communities and build the capacity and skills needed to navigate difficulty and hold difference in a loving way? This day, hosted by Quaker Life and Restoring Relations, will include discussion, exploration and workshops to help Friends understand and experience a range of ways to help strengthen our Quaker communities.

You can book here: [Strong Loving Communities – Selly Oak MH](#)

Quaker work, Legacies and You

Friday, 20 November, 6:30pm, Friends House, Euston, London

Join us at this social and information evening with a focus on legacy giving at Friends House on the evening of 20 November (the evening prior to Yearly Meeting). There will be a tour of the library and speakers including Siobhán Haire and Graham Torr. Food and refreshments are provided. Come along to socialise with other Friends and find out more about how legacies support Quaker work.



Find out more and book here, www.quaker.org.uk/events/legacies-in-the-past-legacies-today

Training and Learning

Woodbrooke's November 2026 to April 2027



Our programme offers Friends opportunities to deepen their understanding of Quaker history and theology, enrich their spirituality, develop in their role within their Quaker community, and explore peace and social justice. Rooted in Quakerism, our courses combine thoughtful learning with fresh perspectives, offering something for everyone.

Explore the programme, www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses

Our Quaker Way. Read. Reflect. Respond

The first complete draft of Our Quaker Way will be available to Friends in November 2026.

Woodbrooke is working alongside the Book of Discipline Revision Committee and Quakers in Britain to support Friends across Britain in engaging with the draft. Together, we're creating ways to read, reflect and respond ahead of Yearly Meeting in July 2027.

We currently have a number of opportunities open for booking, including events, courses, in-person and online gatherings, and Woodbrooke Where You Are workshops for Quaker communities.

Find out more and sign up to receive updates, www.woodbrooke.org.uk/rrr



Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care in a Nutshell

Saturday 7 November, 10am to 4pm, online

This online one-day course is an opportunity for those new to, or returning to, Spiritual Nurture or Pastoral Care to explore the heart of the Quaker way in these roles. The day will deepen your understanding and strengthen your confidence in serving your Quaker Meeting.

Find out more, www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/spiritual-nurture-and-pastoral-care-in-a-nutshell-2



Quaker Clerking in a Nutshell

Saturday 14 November, 10am to 4:30pm, online

This one-day online course provides clear guidance on Quaker clerking and on being an effective clerk for your Meeting, group or committee. While also offering an opportunity to refresh and update skills, it is especially recommended for Friends new to the role.

Find out more: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses/quaker-clerking-in-a-nutshell



Workshops on peaceful dissent

The last few years have seen an increase in the repression of protest. This has left some people at a loss of what to do if they want to raise their voice against the injustices happening in our world. Some have even found themselves wondering, is dissent still possible?

We want Quakers to be able to answer that question with a clear 'yes!'. So, over the next year, Quakers in Britain will be running workshops on peaceful dissent. Hopefully participants will leave with a sense of what action they might be able to take. Workshops will focus on reflecting on nonviolence and navigating risk in a dynamic context. From one call out, we've already multiple requests for September – December 2026. If you'd like us to come to your local meeting, area meeting gathering or other event, please let us know so we can start planning the new year.

Email, faithinaction@quaker.org.uk to book a session.



Photo by Michael Preston for Quakers in Britain

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.