



Registering officers



Information on how to access the resources and support available to registering officers and those responsible for the right holding of Quaker marriages.



Contribute to Quaker work

Contribute time – There are many opportunities to get involved with the work we do on behalf of Quakers in Britain, including serving on committees, volunteering at events and joining the Quaker Life Network. Visit www.quaker.org.uk/quaker-service to find out more or email nominations@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1121.

Contribute money – You can contribute to Britain Yearly Meeting funds direct or via your local or area meeting. To find out more about making a financial contribution visit www.quaker.org.uk/contributions or email contributions@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1015.

Leave a legacy – Legacy giving helps sustain Quaker work for future generations. After taking care of family and friends, please consider leaving a gift for Quaker work in your will. Visit www.quaker.org.uk/legacy or email legacy@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1019 for more information.

Find out more and connect with us

Find out more – You can find out more about all of Britain Yearly Meeting's work by reading the Trustees' annual report. Copies are sent to every meeting in April or visit www.quaker.org.uk/annualreport. *Quaker News* is a free magazine about the work of Britain Yearly Meeting. It is distributed via local meetings. You can also subscribe by email, access electronic back issues and read it online at www.quaker.org.uk/qn.

Connect with us – Contact details for specific areas of work are provided throughout the Directory of Services. The general contact details for Friends House are:

Friends House, 173 Euston Road,
London NW1 2BJ
www.quaker.org.uk
Email: enquiries@quaker.org.uk
Switchboard: 020 7663 1000.

Quaker Centre Bookshop

You can order books, book boxes, resources and posters from the Quaker Centre Bookshop at Friends House, London.

Quaker Centre Bookshop, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ

www.quaker.org.uk/shop
quakercentre@quaker.org.uk
020 7663 1030/1031.

Registering officers



Introduction

“Marriage has a special status in Quaker practice. From the very beginning – for longer even than membership – Friends have regarded marriage as a state so momentous that it requires an explicit, solemn enactment in a meeting for worship.”

Quaker faith & practice 16.03

Registering officers are appointed by area meetings, and have a formal legal role to play in Quaker weddings. They have responsibilities both to the area meeting and the civil authorities. Chapter 16 of *Quaker faith & practice* gives detailed information on Quaker marriage procedure and the role of the registering officer. Ensure you are using the most recent version, available online, as changes to this chapter were approved by Britain Yearly Meeting 2015 after the fifth edition's print publication.

Resources

The following printed or electronic materials support registering officers.

‘A Quaker Wedding’ leaflet

This describes Quaker weddings and is useful for registering officers as well as those attending Quaker weddings. It is available online at www.quaker.org.uk/dos-ro.

Handbook for registering officers

This can be accessed online at www.quaker.org.uk/ro. Queries regarding any matters not covered should be referred to the Support for Meetings Officer in Quaker Life, who will refer to the Recording Clerk where appropriate.

Quaker marriage forms (‘red booklets’)

The marriage form booklet and registering officers' sample completed forms can be accessed at www.quaker.org.uk/ro.

Support

If you have any questions about Quaker marriage procedure, or how to respond to enquiries from couples who are not part of our religious community, please contact our Support for Meetings Officer in Quaker Life at supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1023.

Marriage law varies considerably in different parts of the United Kingdom. Chapter 16 of *Quaker faith & practice* sets out procedures for England, Wales & Scotland. Meetings in the Channel Islands and Isle of Man should contact the Support for Meetings Officer in Quaker Life for further advice.

Registering officers' e-group

Registering officers can communicate with one another on an email list that provides peer support. When an area meeting clerk informs the Recording Clerk's Office at Friends House of a new registering officer (as required by *Quaker faith & practice*), that person will automatically be added to this group. Email registering-officers@lists.quaker.eu.org.

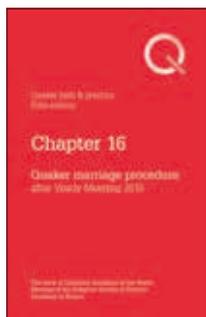
Training and events

Registering officers conference

Every three years, Quaker Life, in partnership with Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, organises this conference for registering officers. For further information and to find out where and when the next one will be held, contact our Support for Meetings Officer at supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1023.

Registering officers training (Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre)

For those new to the role, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre offers a residential training course 'Being a Quaker registering officer'. For more information and for bookings, please visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk, email enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk or phone 0121 472 5171.



Other related publications

Chapter 16 of *Quaker faith & practice* covers Quaker marriage procedure. The latest (fifth) edition of *Quaker faith & practice* is available online at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk>. All meetings will have received booklets containing the updated chapter 16 following approval at Britain Yearly Meeting 2015, and these are also available from the Quaker Centre (see contact details on back page of this booklet).

In 2009, Britain Yearly Meeting agreed to recognise same-sex marriages as equal to opposite-sex marriages. A leaflet explaining this decision, *We are but Witnesses* and some frequently asked questions is available at: www.quaker.org.uk/dos-ro.

Key contacts

- **Support for Meetings Officer:** supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk; 020 7663 1023.
- **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre**
Woodbrooke is a major provider of learning for Quakers in Britain and Europe from its site in Birmingham, via its travelling teaching service and through online courses and learning materials. Visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk, email enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk or phone 0121 472 5171.

Supporting information

Safeguarding – Safeguarding is protecting children, young people and vulnerable adults from harm. For more information visit www.quaker.org.uk/safeguarding. Here you will find a link to Meeting safety, which outlines the responsibilities for Quaker meetings in Britain. We recommend that area meetings join the Churches' Child Protection Advisory Service. Visit www.ccpas.co.uk or email info@ccpas.co.uk.

For general safeguarding advice, as well as Quaker advice on how specific safeguarding matters may affect the pastoral needs of individuals and the meeting community, contact our Safeguarding Coordinator at safe@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1023.

General issues relating to a Quaker meeting

– If you have concerns about issues in your Quaker meeting that you would like to talk over, contact our Support for Meetings Officer at supportmeetings@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1023. Alternatively, contact the Recording Clerk's Office at recordingclerk@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1161.

Information updates – Please keep us informed of changes to the key role-holders in your local and area meetings: clerk, treasurer, safeguarding coordinator, registering officer, clerk of (area meeting) trustees. To let us know of any such changes please contact our Database Administrator at updates@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1119.

Data safety – Quaker meetings in Britain need to store information on their members and attenders in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998, which protects individuals from the unauthorised use of their personal information. Friends House Data Safety Group can offer meetings general advice on data safety. For more information visit www.quaker.org.uk/data-safety. Here you will find a link to Data Safety and Information Security, which offers guidance to meetings. You can also contact our Data Safety Officer at datasafety@quaker.org.uk or on 020 7663 1161.

Complaints and feedback

– Britain Yearly Meeting's complaints and feedback procedure enables anyone to let us know about problems or to give feedback on service received from staff at Friends House. To find out more visit www.quaker.org.uk/contact-us. Complaints can be made in writing to the Recording Clerk's Office at Friends House. Alternatively, email feedback@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1161.

Quaker faith & practice – *Quaker faith & practice* is the book of Christian discipline of Quakers in Britain. It expresses the breadth of Quaker theology through the experience of Friends and describes our corporate structures. Copies can be purchased from the Quaker Centre Bookshop. It is also available at <http://qfp.quaker.org.uk>.

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Information on how to access the resources and support available from Britain Yearly Meeting



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Directory of Services

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Directory of Services

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Directory of Services

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Directory of Services

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Registering officers



Information on how to access the resources and support available to registering officers and those responsible for the right holding of Quaker marriages.



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Directory of Services

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The library



Information on how to access the resources, support and advice available from the Library at Friends House.



www.quaker.org.uk

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or see our Facebook page at
www.facebook.com/QuakersinBritain

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