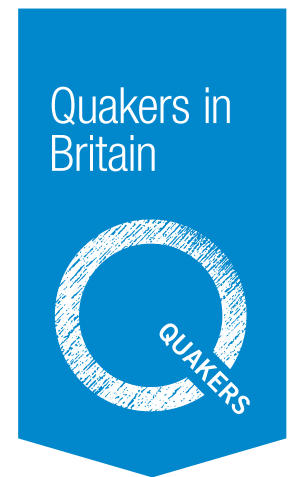


January 2023

Yearly Meeting 2023



Dear Friends,

Yearly Meeting 2023 will take place during the weekend of 28 April – 1 May. This will be a blended event, meaning some Friends will participate online, while others will be physically present at Friends House in London.

We will focus on **'Releasing our energy so that we can follow the leadings of the spirit, fulfil our purpose and build a better world.'** As in 2022, Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee is planning preparatory events online in the run up to the Yearly Meeting itself and in particular during the previous weekend.

Last year this helped Friends to approach our meetings for worship for business with hearts and minds prepared. It will also mean the programme for the Yearly Meeting weekend is not overly full, allowing more time for ministry to emerge guided by the spirit.

Yearly Meeting is like a patchwork quilt, with different pieces being sewn together to make a whole. Some of these are constitutional business; the beauty of ensuring that things are set in order within our Society. Other pieces relate to currently pressing issues in the world beyond. Right now, six months before Yearly Meeting, we have many of the pieces but have not yet decided how they will fit together. However, I can share with you some of the pieces: at YMAC's last meeting the committee considered the following topics:

Releasing our energy: How do we ensure our structures are simple, inclusive, and sustainable?

Revitalising our communities: How do we revitalise our Quaker meetings and nurture joy?

Following the leadings of the spirit: How can we build a better world with integrity, and how can we recognise and support truth in the wider world?

We don't expect to have time to consider all of these questions this year. Instead, we hope that what we think about at this Yearly Meeting can lead

on to further discussions in 2024 and beyond. These are the foundations on which we hope to build.

Children and Young People's programmes: For these age groups there will be programmes suitable for different ages. All will engage with the themes of Yearly Meeting. Places will be first come, first served and should be booked in advance. Full information can be found at www.quaker.org.uk/ym.

The Children's Programme is for 0–11-year-olds. Parents/guardians will be able to book children onto this by session.

The Young People's Programme is a residential event for 11–15-year olds. Parents/guardians will need to book their child/ward onto the full weekend.

The Accompanying Programme is for 15–18-year-olds, a nonresidential opportunity to attend Yearly Meeting, with some social activities alongside.

Registration for Yearly Meeting 2023 opens for all Friends on 10 January at www.quaker.org.uk/ym. It is essential to book your place, whether you plan to attend in person, or join online.

Registration for Yearly Meeting in person closes 31 March, online registration closes 17 April and Children and Young People's Programmes bookings close on 17 March

Friends, let us do all we can to provide a warm welcome to each other, as we gather together in the spirit of worship.

In Friendship,

Adwoa Burnley

Yearly Meeting Clerk (nominate)