



May 4, 2025

Greetings,

We bring you friendly greetings from the France Yearly Meeting and ask our representatives to European gatherings to share this letter with you.

What is new with France Yearly Meeting?

As we change and grow, led by the Spirit, we find a slow growing enthusiasm for Quaker ideals amongst friends of Friends and this is bringing a trickle of new members and also a renewed need to wear our badge on our coat (metaphorically as well as physically with the creation of a lapel pin), and be prepared to stand up for our values and also our sense of spirit and guidance within.

Friends Meetings are in Paris, Nantes, Toulouse, Nouvelle Aquitaine and Languedoc. 'Le Groupe des Amis Isolés' (Isolated Friends) group has also become a recognized Meeting, importantly bringing together Friends and Seekers who meet and worship online.

After selling the premises on the rue de Vaugirard where Quaker activities in Paris had been centered for over 60 years, a new Maison Quaker has now been found and opened. Ownership was structured such that all those local Quaker Groups who wanted are part owners. The new premises have facilities not only for holding Sunday morning Meeting for worship, but also to attract outside groups that share our Quaker values. Office space is available for the CQI and the French Quaker archives. We are located just one train stop outside Paris city limits.

The Languedoc group meets in the Maison Quaker in Congenies, which flourishes with courses, *chambre d'hôtes*, work parties, and our Families Week.

French Friends continue to explore online paths. With the support of Woodbrooke, Friends on our Communications and Outreach committee led a French-language version of the course 'Quaker in Europe: Introduction to the Quaker Way'. A Quaker bible study group meets regularly and our website [quakersenfrance.org](http://quakersenfrance.org) is more important than ever as a portal to our community.

In October 2024, Friends gathered in Martillac for our annual gathering. We are excited to meet for the France Yearly Meeting Annual Gathering 24-26 October 2025 in Paris. Immediately following the gathering, there will be a celebration, for two half days on 26 and 27 October, of the centenary of the Centre quaker international, which was founded in the early 1920s as one of the original "Quaker embassies" in continental Europe. About a dozen academics, historians and stakeholders who worked at the Centre will make presentations on the relief and reconstruction undertaken by Quakers during the interwar period and World War II. Also, the stories of how direct beneficiaries of Quakers help have been recorded.

We can say that what we carry is more important than ever in a fractured world! Let's celebrate it!

In Friendship,

Lesley Lawton, Kris Misselbrook, Michael O'Connor

France Yearly Meeting Clerks