

How Yearly Meeting works

Compiled for Yearly Meeting,
King's House, Manchester and online
18 July 2026

Yearly Meeting of Quakers in Britain



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1. Introduction and information

1.1 Introduction

Yearly Meeting is when Quakers in Britain come together to worship, make decisions, and spend time as a community.

Yearly Meeting is also when we can learn, practise, improve, and take back to our local meetings ways of conducting business that are rooted in Quaker discipline and our own experience, yet also meet contemporary challenges.

Yearly Meeting is a blended event: this allows people to attend the same meeting either online or on site.

We all need to approach this style of event with care, patience, and compassion.

The purposes and functions of Yearly Meeting are described in *Quaker faith & practice* 6.02–6.11, which also gives the background to the business agenda.

July Yearly Meeting

The primary business sessions of Yearly Meeting July 2026 will be held on Saturday 18 July.

An online preparation event will be held before Yearly Meeting, on Thursday 9 July.

Details of Yearly Meeting in session and the preparation session are included in ([the agenda document](#)).

To access the full schedule of events, you first need to register to attend Yearly Meeting. You can do this online at www.quaker.org.uk/ym.

Yearly Meeting planner (Sched)

Once your registration has been confirmed, you will be sent a link to the online Yearly Meeting planner.

The screenshot displays the 'Yearly Meeting 2026' planner interface. At the top, a purple banner reads 'Yearly Meeting 2026'. Below this, a navigation bar includes 'Schedule', 'Groups', 'Help, Pastoral Care, Contacts', and 'Attendees'. The main content area shows a schedule for Thursday and Friday, with sessions listed by time and topic. A sidebar on the right offers filters for venue, type, and age. The footer includes the Quaker.org.uk website and contact information.

Need to make some updates? [Edit event](#)

Yearly Meeting documents
Recorded introductions and other materials will be added to the [YM website](#) as they become available.

Schedule Groups Help, Pastoral Care, Contacts Attendees

Thursday, 9:30am BST Practice: getting used to the YM Planner and joining meetings

Friday, 11:00am BST

- Establishing the involvement of British Quakers in the Transatlantic Chattel Slave Trade; colonialism and economic exploitation and addressing their legacies (provisional title) [View materials](#)
- Exploring a Quaker Testimony to Kindness [View materials](#)
- Graphic design and visual identity for Quaker communities [View materials](#)
- Visions and pathways at a time of Earth crisis [View materials](#)

1:00pm BST

- Costly solidarity? A faith response to suffering in Palestine and Israel [View materials](#)
- Getting the most out of Quaker tools (spiritual review, threshing, cleanness, listening v) [View materials](#)

3:00pm BST

- Alternative Forms of Quaker Community [View materials](#)

Filter By Date

Filter By Venue

- Friends House, London and online

Filter By Type

- Orientation
- Special Interest Meeting
- Worship
- Yearly Meeting Preparation Session
- Yearly Meeting Session

Filter By Age

www.quaker.org.uk

Need help? [View Support Guides](#)
Event questions? [Contact Organizer](#)

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Please refer to the Yearly Meeting planner for details of all sessions, including orientation and Yearly Meeting preparation sessions, at <https://ym2026.sched.com>.

You will not be able to use this until your registration has been confirmed.

1.2 Youth, Children & Families programmes

The Children's and Young People's programmes are central to Yearly Meeting. Children and young people attending these programmes will also be using Quaker practice and discipline, in ways appropriate for their ages. Children and Young people will be present at the July Yearly Meeting sessions, in their own sessions facilitated by youth, children and families staff and volunteers.

They may share their discernment with the whole Yearly Meeting through minutes during different sessions. They will build an exciting, challenging and creative community. All under-18s attending Yearly Meeting need to be registered by their parent or guardian.

1.3 Contact details

Yearly Meeting Agenda Planning Committee

Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BJ

Please send comments on business or the agenda to Yearly Meeting Agenda Planning Committee at ymagenda@quaker.org.uk.

General enquiries

Quaker Church Affairs

Telephone: 020 7663 1040

Email: ym@quaker.org.uk

Website: www.quaker.org.uk/ym

Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/quakerspace

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/quaker.org.uk> #BYM2026

2. How does Yearly Meeting work?

2.1 Safeguarding the health and well-being of our community

The following section sets out the action we will take to safeguard the well-being of the most vulnerable members of our community. There are various respiratory and flu-like illnesses in circulation. Please do not attend Yearly Meeting if you feel unwell, have tested positive for Covid-19 or have had close contact with someone who has a contagious illness. You may consider wearing a face-covering when indoors if you feel more comfortable doing so. Please always check with individuals to see whether they are comfortable hugging or shaking hands before making physical contact. Please follow good hygiene procedures such as regular handwashing for 20 seconds and coughing/sneezing into your elbow rather than your hand.

2.2 Online participation in Yearly Meeting sessions

Friends joining a blended session online will use Zoom. Yearly Meeting sessions will open ten minutes before the start time so that the meeting can gather in silence beforehand.

If you need to move away from your computer, please turn off your camera.

- Use 'rename' so that your screen name includes both your first/ personal name and surname/ family name. – If you are concerned about displaying your full name on screen, please email ym@quaker.org.uk in advance of Yearly Meeting.
- Add the name of your area meeting, if known, or your local meeting or other worshipping community.
- Visitors from other yearly meetings should add the name of their yearly meeting.

2.3 Participation in Yearly Meeting sessions at King's House, Manchester

Entering late or leaving early can disturb other Friends. If you need to do so, please wait for a break or, if necessary, leave at the end of an item of business. Please avoid leaving or entering when the clerk is standing, or a Friend is giving spoken ministry.

The clerk will aim to conclude sessions by published closing times. If it is necessary to extend sessions, the clerk will say when those who need to meet participants from the Children's Programme, or who have other pressing matters, can leave.

Please follow the directions of doorkeepers and wait quietly until they say that you can go in.

Please turn mobile phones to silent. Even a phone set to vibrate can be distracting to Friends sitting near you. The exception to this rule will be parents or guardians with children in the Children & Young People's programmes, who need to be contactable in case of emergency.

2.4 Discipline of Yearly Meeting sessions

Please read the guidance on the Quaker business method found in chapter 3 of *Quaker faith & practice*.

“In our meetings for worship we seek through the stillness to know God's will for ourselves and for the gathered group. Our meetings for church affairs, in which we conduct our business, are also meetings for worship based on silence, and they carry the same expectation that God's guidance can be discerned if we are truly listening together and to each other and are not blinkered by preconceived opinions.”

Quaker faith & practice 3.02

Spoken ministry and discipline

If you feel a prompting to speak, please test this first as you would in any meeting for worship. The following questions may be helpful. Is my message led by the spirit of peace, truth and love? Is it a message for me alone or for others? Does it need to be said now? Will it help the meeting towards faithful and well-discerned unity?

When speaking in Yearly Meeting, “try to sum up what you have to say in as few words as possible. Speak simply and audibly, but do not speak for effect.” (*Quaker faith & practice* 3.10)

Section “1.1 Introduction” sets out the role of elders in relation to ministry and discipline at Yearly Meeting.

At King’s House, if you feel led to give spoken ministry, stand or raise your hand. Online, if you feel led to give spoken ministry, raise your electronic hand. Once called upon by the clerk, wait for a microphone to be brought to you when in person, or, online, wait to be invited to unmute.

If more than one Friend feels moved to speak, the clerks will discern who to call. If another Friend is called, please sit down or lower your hand. Do not rise/raise your hand when someone else is giving spoken ministry.

If you are called, please share your name and your meeting before you begin your ministry (e.g. “X Area Meeting” or “attending X Meeting”).

Each contribution should be heard in silence. Audible indications of approval or disapproval of spoken ministry are not part of the discipline of our Yearly Meeting.

After each contribution, there will be a pause to allow reflection. Please do not stand or raise your hand at this time. When the clerk feels the time is right for a further contribution, they will say so. If you have tested your ministry and feel that the meeting needs to hear it to reach unity, you should stand or raise your hand at this point.

2.5 How Yearly Meeting will agree minutes

The clerk listens for the sense of the meeting. When they discern that the time is right, they will say they are ready to draft a minute. Please do not stand or raise your hand at this time. While the minute is being drafted, please support the clerks with prayerful silence.

When the clerk reads a minute and asks if it is acceptable, please think about whether the minute is good enough. You may choose to answer “I hope so” or to remain silent. There is no need to indicate active agreement. If, after reflection, you are clear that an amendment is necessary, stand or raise your hand and wait to be called. Do not add fresh information at this point.

Minutes agreed in a Yearly Meeting session will not be altered later other than minor amendments for spelling, grammar or slight inaccuracies. If, when the minutes are checked, substantive changes seem to be required, they will be proposed at the next session before further business.

2.6 Elders at Yearly Meeting

The role of the Elders team at Yearly Meeting is to lovingly support all present to deepen awareness of the Spirit at work amongst us. They may sometimes speak with words of guidance to help the meeting in its task. They are present online and at King’s House at each session and at morning and evening worship. They work alongside the Yearly Meeting clerks and Agenda Planning Committee.

Elders are nominated for three years by Central Nominations Committee who seek a group to represent the diversity of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Elders meet regularly in worship in the months beforehand to hold in the Light all preparation for Yearly Meeting. They provide spiritual support for the clerks during this time and throughout Yearly Meeting. They wear purple sashes so they are easily identified. Those online will have “YM Elders” on their screen. If you wish to consult Elders about the conduct of the Yearly

Meeting please engage with them straight after a session. They will do their best to support you.

You can also contact Elders before and during the event through the Yearly Meeting planner.

Supporting each other is an important part of our community's witness. We hope that Quaker meetings and communities will support their own participants as far as possible. On the day, we expect that Friends will volunteer to act as warm welcomers, coffee chatters, table hosts and online group facilitators, to ensure a warm welcome and sense of belonging for everyone attending Yearly Meeting on site, or online.

Help desk

For general help about Yearly Meeting, or if you have been unsuccessful making contact with Elders using the details above, please contact the help desk via email at ym@quaker.org.uk.

2.7 Photography and video

Quakers in Britain staff will be taking photos and videos of activities and interactions for use in Quaker communications. These are used to illustrate what happens at Yearly Meeting online or in printed materials to attract new enquirers and encourage people to take part in our activities or contribute to our funds.

Filming takes place in Yearly Meeting sessions. Footage is streamed to registered participants via Zoom and may also be used for Quaker communications purposes to illustrate Yearly Meeting in session. Instructions will be provided to show which areas of the meeting room will not be filmed.

If you do not want to appear in Quaker communications after Yearly Meeting you can request a coloured lanyard, so you can be identified and kept out of published imagery.

2.8 Orientation

Woodbrooke will host an online orientation session before Yearly Meeting:

All about Yearly Meeting – doing discernment and creating community

This session is for everyone, whether you have been to Yearly Meeting before or are completely new to it – and whether you will be attending online or at the venue.

The session will explore how joining in community and discernment with hundreds of Quakers can be exciting, but also different from local and area meeting. We will look at the basis of spirit-led discernment; how this works at our blended Yearly Meeting in particular, and how to come with hearts and minds prepared but not made up. There will be a chance to ask any questions that you might have – there is no such thing as a silly question!

- Tuesday 7 July, 19:30–20:30 (online)

2.9 Spiritual preparation and theme-related sessions

In the preparation document, [New ways into membership](#), Yearly Meeting Agenda Planning Committee has provided preparation material to support our discernment on new ways into membership, which comes from a working group of Quaker Life Central Committee.

An equivalent preparation document for children and young people's leaders is available here: [Membership and belonging](#).

To prepare, you can also read the full proposal document: [New ways into membership: A proposal from a working group of Quaker Life Central Committee](#), as well as this article: [Why belonging matters](#).

Click the links or visit www.quaker.org.uk/ym/documents to view these documents (all PDFs).

To help Friends prepare for discernment at Yearly Meeting, there will be an online preparation session on Thursday 9 July, held online. For details and to book, please refer to the online Yearly Meeting planner.

3. Explanation of business to be taken at Yearly Meeting

3.1 Nominations and appointments

Yearly Meeting nominations and appointments

Yearly Meeting itself will nominate and appoint Friends to serve on Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations.

(see *Quaker faith & practice* 9.13)

Nominations from nominating committees

For the remaining vacancies, two different nominating committees bring the names of Friends to Yearly Meeting: Central Nominations Committee and the Yearly Meeting Nominating Group.

The Friends named by Central Nominations Committee have been identified after a careful and prayerful process of discernment. Their names will be published in the documents in advance of Yearly Meeting, which will be available via Hope So! and on the Yearly Meeting website, www.quaker.org.uk/ym, before Yearly Meeting.

If you see a problem with the service of any of the Friends nominated, you should contact:

Erin Letbe Holder, Volunteers and Committees Coordinator,
either by email at nominations@quaker.org.uk
or telephone on 020 7663 1165.

This must happen as soon as possible and in good time before July Yearly Meeting.

3.2 Receipt of annual reports

Yearly Meeting is the final constitutional authority of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain. Consequently, Yearly Meeting receives the annual reports of the committees appointed to carry out its business between Yearly Meetings. In July, it will receive reports from the following groups:

- **BYM Trustees** are responsible to Yearly Meeting for the right stewardship of the centrally managed work and the assets and property of the yearly meeting. See *Quaker faith & practice* 8.17–8.20. Trustees are accountable to both Yearly Meeting and the charity regulators.
- **Friends Trusts Ltd** is a company limited by guarantee and a registered charity. It is the denominational trust corporation for Quakers in Britain and, in this capacity, holds property and investments as custodian trustee or nominee for meetings and other bodies within BYM. It receives legacies that are to benefit some aspect of the Society or its work and manages a number of Quaker trusts.
See *Quaker faith & practice* 14.45.

Quakers share a way of life, not a set of beliefs. Quaker unity is based on shared understanding and a shared practice of silent worship – a communal stillness.

Quakers seek to experience God directly – internally, in relationships with others, and with the world. Local meetings for worship are open to all who wish to attend.

Quakers try to live with honesty and integrity. This means speaking truth to all, including people in positions of power. The Quaker commitment to peace arises from the conviction that love is at the heart of existence and that all human beings are unique and equal.

This leads Quakers to put faith into action by working locally and globally to change the systems that cause injustice and violent conflict.

Accessible versions of this document are available.

Please contact the publications manager at publications@quaker.org.uk or call 020 7663 1162

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