

Monthly Mailing – March 2015

for local meeting clerks or conveners



Welcome to your March 2015 mailing.

Area meeting clerks have received the same material, numbered identically, to help you discuss it with them if you need to. Please send any feedback, mailing-list updates or requests to receive the email version of this mailing to Gaby Scott: gabys@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1045.



action required by clerk for meeting business



printed material is included relating to this item (number of sheets to right of icon)



this item is also relevant to area meetings

Also included in this mailing:

- **Books of the Month March 2015** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop
- **The Young Quaker February 2015** including: Young Friends General Meeting adopts concerns, plus young Friends talk about who they'll be voting for in the general election.

All mailings and PDFs of printed materials are available at: www.quaker.org.uk/mailings

NB: The next monthly mailing, for **April 2015**, will be sent out on 31 March 2015.

Governance Gold

We are continuing this initiative from Britain Yearly Meeting staff to assist clerks in keeping up to date with key governance matters set out in *Quaker faith & practice*. This time it is for local and area meeting clerks. (See yellow sheet enclosed.)

Many thanks to the Friends from Luton & Leighton Area Meeting who help to collate this mailing.

We suggest that some of the following items are read out as notices. Please pass enclosures to relevant members of your meeting or add to your noticeboard or newsletter where possible.

Children and young people

1. Junior Yearly Meeting

1–4 May 2015, Lee Valley Youth Hostel, London

Junior Yearly Meeting 2015 is a residential event taking place during Yearly Meeting (Friday–Monday) and ending at Friends House.

Although the deadline for AM nominations has now passed, there are still places left and bookings will be taken until the end of March.

The event is for 15- to 18-year-olds (born between 01/09/1996 and 31/08/1999). Further information including the event leaflet and booking forms can be found at www.quaker.org.uk/junior-yearly-meeting-2015. Cost: £230 per person.

cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1130, www.quaker.org.uk/junior-yearly-meeting-2015



Please pass this information and leaflet on to families and young people in your meeting.

2. Young People's Programme at Yearly Meeting 2015

1–4 May 2015, High Leigh Conference Centre, Hoddesdon

The Young People's Programme is a residential event taking place during Yearly Meeting (Friday–Monday) and ending at Friends House. The programme is for 11- to 15-year-olds (born between 01/09/1999 and 31/08/2003).

Further information including the event leaflet and booking form can be found at: www.quaker.org.uk/young-peoples-programme-2015.

Booking deadline: 20 March. Cost: £175 per person.

cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1130, www.quaker.org.uk/young-peoples-programme-2015



Please pass this information and leaflet on to families and young people in your meeting.

3. Children's Programme at Yearly Meeting 2015

2–4 May 2015, Friends House

The Children's Programme will take place on the Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Yearly Meeting at Friends House. The programme is for 0- to 11-year-olds (born after 01/09/2003).

Further information including an event leaflet and booking form, can be found at: www.quaker.org.uk/childrens-programme-2015. Booking deadline: 20 March. Cost: £12 per half-day session per child.

cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1130, www.quaker.org.uk/childrens-programme-2015



Please pass this information and leaflet on to families with children in your meeting.

4. New leaflet for *Journeys in the Spirit* – children's work edition

Included is a new promotional leaflet for the children's edition of *Journeys in the Spirit*, reflecting recent changes made to this resource. *Journeys in the Spirit* offers materials to help children develop their own experience, understanding and practice of Quakerism. It comes out every month and is free by subscription.

An updated catalogue of previous issues is available, please be in touch if you would like to be sent one or view at www.quaker.org.uk/journeys/archive-children. The leaflet contains important information about developments in what *Journeys in the Spirit* offers.

cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 0207 663 1013



Please share this with children's work volunteers, convenors and elders.

General election

5. Hustings

Friends may be interested to know that we are holding national hustings at Friends House in London on Tuesday 31 March (international affairs), Thursday 9 April (community and sustainability), and Tuesday 21 April (economy and social justice). If you happen to be in London then, we'd love to see you there. Doors open at 6.30pm for a 7pm start.

We are hoping for similar national hustings in Scotland and Wales and many Friends are holding constituency hustings. Please do get in touch to tell us about your election plans or if you'd like more copies of election or hustings guides.

Jessica Metherringham, quakervote@quaker.org.uk, www.quakervote.org.uk, Twitter: @QuakerVote

Please announce in notices.

Resources and opportunities for action

6. Housing booklets reissued

Inequality in housing in Britain is widening and housing options are narrowing. There is a strong sense of the need for radical change in the housing situation in Britain today. *Principles for a just housing policy* offers a way of describing what that change might look like. *Housing: our spiritual concern* offers a way of exploring how we might contribute to that change. To help Friends prepare for both the general election and Yearly Meeting 2015, these two booklets have been reissued by Quaker Housing Trust, Yearly Meeting's own housing charity. A6 printed copies of both booklets are freely available from: Paula Harvey, paulah@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1036, www.qht.org.uk

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Please announce in notices.

7. New equality campaigns and briefings

Quaker Peace & Social Witness has launched two new campaigns, both driven by Quaker concern for equality.

- Economic Inequality: Britain is one of the most unequal societies in the industrialised world. This situation presents a fundamental challenge to Quaker testimony.
- Energy Justice: Energy is a climate issue. It is also fundamentally an issue of inequality. Energy is inequitably distributed, consumed and controlled in the UK and worldwide.

There's lots that we can do to build a more equal society and energy system. Read the new briefings to find out more and for ideas about what to do. If you would like more copies or to discuss ideas for action contact Maya Williams on mayaw@quaker.org.uk or 0207 663 1056.

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Please announce in notices and share the briefings with the meeting.

8. Fly Kites Not Drones

Quaker Peace & Social Witness together with Voices for Creative Nonviolence, Pax Christi and the Drones Campaign Network invite you to join people around the world in drawing attention to the serious issue of armed drones and their effects on children by making and/or flying kites with messages of peace on 21 March. Simple kite-making instructions are available for this all-age activity. Please take photos and share what you've done with other Friends and peace groups. There is also an educational resource on drones coming out soon.

Tim Wallis, disarm@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1067

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Please announce in notices and pass the leaflet on to someone who wants to take it forward.

9. Serve as an ecumenical accompanier in 2016

The Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI) is a World Council of Churches initiative that accompanies Palestinians and Israelis in their nonviolent actions and concerted advocacy efforts to end the occupation.

We are currently recruiting ecumenical accompaniers to serve as human rights monitors based in the West Bank and Israel in 2016. There are 18 vacancies for 3 months' service and 2 vacancies for 4.5 months' service. Living allowance and benefits paid. Deadline for applications 24 April. See included advert for more information or visit www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi.

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Please announce in notices and put up the advert in your meeting house.

Courses and events

10. Experiment with Light: an introductory workshop

10–12 April 2015, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham

This course is an opportunity to experience a meditation practice drawn from the writings of early Friends. It can be searching and powerful. We will reflect on the significance of the Light for our lives today, and how we might be helped to access it, including in supportive Light groups.

This course aims to deepen the spiritual lives of participants and may be particularly useful for elders and overseers.

To book on this course visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses.

11. Creating a purposeful life: a time to awaken

24–26 April 2015, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, Birmingham

This course will cover aspects of uniqueness, e.g. talents and strengths; mapping my purposeful life; how to re-balance use of time; overcoming blockers to personal change; and tips to sustain on living purposefully. This course is particularly useful or elders and overseers.

To book on this course visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses or contact: Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ, 0121 472 5171, enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk.

12. QLGF Gathering – Different and Equal?

11 April 2015, Brighton Friends Meeting House

QLGF, the Quaker fellowship for Friends of all sexualities and gender identities, is holding a major gathering on the theme of 'Different and Equal? LGBT people and faith today' at Brighton Friends Meeting House on Saturday 11 April, from 10.30am to 4.30pm.

Speakers include Harvey Gillman on 'Being human, being spiritual - religions and sexual minorities', Jessica Metheringham on 'Quakers on equality and prejudice', and Yvonne Wood on 'Spirituality, transgender and truth'.

For responses or bookings email gatherings@qlgf.org.uk or contact James Surry, Gatherings Officer QLGF, 34 Gresham close, Enfield EN2 7AP.

Teaching vacancy

13. Teaching vacancy at Woodbrooke

We have a rare and exciting opportunity to join the tutor team at Woodbrooke. You will contribute to Woodbrooke's overall purposes by teaching aspects of Quaker faith and practice across the range of programmes, so as to strengthen individuals in their understanding of Quakerism and develop meetings as Quaker faith communities.

Please visit www.woodbrooke.org.uk/pages/work-for-us.html to find out more.

Simon Best, Head of Learning, simon.best@woodbrooke.org.uk

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Please make the meeting aware of this course, particularly elders and overseers.

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Please announce in notices or pass to appropriate Friends, attenders or groups in your meeting or area.

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