

# Monthly Mailing – April 2015

## for local meeting clerks or conveners



**Welcome to your April 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](mailto:gabys@quaker.org.uk), 020 7663 1045.

**Please note: This mailing also includes the Yearly Meeting timetable which was omitted from the agenda notes sent out recently.**



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 April 2015** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop
- **Friends World News: The Bulletin of the Friends World Committee for Consultation** including reports on World Quaker Day and the FWCC annual financial report.
- **Quaker Service Memorial Trust Calendar 2015** – for information about other International Conscientious Objectors Day events go to [www.quaker.org.uk/upcoming-events](http://www.quaker.org.uk/upcoming-events)

NB: The next monthly mailing, for **May 2015**, will be sent out on 28 April 2015.

*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. Pilgrimage in 1652 country for 12- to 15-year-olds

*23–26 October 2015, Great Tower, Newby Bridge, Cumbria*

The Pilgrimage in 1652 country for 12- to 15-year-olds (those born 1 September 2000 – 31 August 2003) is run by the Children and Young People's team in Quaker Life. This is an opportunity to explore the roots of Quakerism and follow in the footsteps of George Fox and other early Quakers. Visit sites such as Pendle Hill, Firbank Fell, Brigflatts Meeting House, Swarthmoor Hall and the Quaker Tapestry. Take part in a 'leap of faith' and explore your own spiritual journey alongside your peers.

The event costs £145 per person.

[www.quaker.org.uk/12-15s-events](http://www.quaker.org.uk/12-15s-events) or [cypadmin@quaker.org.uk](mailto:cypadmin@quaker.org.uk)



Please pass the leaflet on to those of the relevant age in your meeting and consider supporting them financially.

## Courses, conferences and events

### 2. Annual Conference of Treasurers 2015

*Saturday 27 June, Friends House, London*

Local and area meetings are invited to nominate and pay for Treasurers and/or other holders of financial roles to attend this event. Most AMs aim to send two Friends but if you would like to send more that's fine. The cost of the conference is £25 per person which includes refreshments and a sandwich lunch.

Further information including the booking form can be found at:  
<https://forms.quaker.org.uk/?p=549>

Deadline for bookings 10 April 2015

Kristin Skarsholt, [Kristins@quaker.org.uk](mailto:Kristins@quaker.org.uk), 0207 663 1121



Consider supporting your finance officers in attending.

### 3. Young Adult Leadership Programme at Woodbrooke

*Woodbrooke, Birmingham*

Woodbrooke's year-long Leadership Programme for Young Adult Friends (YAFs) is a fantastic opportunity for YAFs to strengthen their knowledge of the Quaker faith and its history and develop many practical skills to help them in the workplace and in their day to day lives. The closing date for applications is 31 May 2015.

[www.woodbrooke.org.uk/youngadults](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/youngadults)



Please let young Friends in your meeting know about this course.

### 4. Creating events for enquirers

*19–21 June, Woodbrooke, Birmingham*

A weekend to explore how meetings can support and encourage enquirers and new attenders, looking at warmth and welcome, responding to questions and making space. We will share ideas, insights and experiences and will be creating a simple, adaptable template for an enquirers' day that meetings can use in a variety of settings.

To book a place go to <http://bit.ly/WBenq15>

To find out more, contact 020 7663 1017, [outreach@quaker.org.uk](mailto:outreach@quaker.org.uk)



Please announce this to the meeting and share with elders and overseers.

### 5. The Word Made Fresh: reinterpreting traditional Christian language

*Friday 8 May, Woodbrooke, Birmingham*

Do you struggle with traditional Christian terms like sin, hell, salvation and sacrifice? If so, this course offers an opportunity to re-evaluate the meaning of such language through an engagement with the vision of early Friends and Marcus Borg's book *Speaking Christian: recovering the lost meaning of Christian words*.



Please let your meeting know about this course.

### 6. Activism: a beginners guide

*Friday 24 April, Swarthmoor Hall*

A fantastic starting point to get into activism. In this course we start from the basics such as signing petitions to walking you through being part of a physical blockade. Perfect for anyone who might have dabbled in activism in the past or someone who is looking for a way into activism. Information through Woodbrooke (see details below).



Please let your meeting know about this course.

**Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ**

**0121 472 5171, [enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk), [www.woodbrooke.org.uk](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk)**

## 7. Interfaith Peacebuilding

26 September 2015 – Day Conference at Friends House, London

Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (Qf&p 9.13) with Quaker Peace & Social Witness invites area quaker meeting (AQM) appointees to attend this day conference on Interfaith Peacebuilding. The focus will be particularly on work with Jewish and Muslim communities in Britain.

What are the challenges? How can Quakers respond?

There will be presentations and time for sharing experiences, reflection and questions. Please visit [www.quaker.org.uk/qccir](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qccir) for online bookings and information about payment.

Graham Spackman, [grahams@quaker.org.uk](mailto:grahams@quaker.org.uk)

## 8. Young Friends General Meeting (YFGM)

22–25 May 2015, Leicester Meeting House

The next YFGM has the theme of ‘Simplicity’. Join young adult Friends from around Britain for a weekend of spirituality and socialising. Open to all aged 18 to 30ish. Area meetings are encouraged to send representatives.

More information and registration at [www.yfgm.quaker.org.uk](http://www.yfgm.quaker.org.uk)

Tim Rouse, 020 7663 1050, [yfgm@quaker.org.uk](mailto:yfgm@quaker.org.uk)

## Governance

### 9. Quaker marriages and Quaker conversions of civil partnerships

Quakers have held marriages within our meetings since the early days of Quakerism. We are delighted that the law in England, Scotland and Wales now permits same sex couples who are associated with Friends to have a Quaker wedding. Couples who are in a civil partnership, and are now associated with Friends, may convert it into a marriage under Quaker auspices, where permitted by law. Civil partnerships can only be converted into a marriage in the jurisdiction where the civil partnership was registered.

Michael Booth in Quaker Life can also offer advice on this matter: 020 7663 1023, [michaelsb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:michaelsb@quaker.org.uk)

### 10. Help shape the future format of our membership and related statistics

At Yearly Meeting in 2013, concerns were raised about whether the data provided in the tabular statement were meaningful, and the Recording Clerk was asked to work with Meeting for Sufferings to suggest improvements. Some additional analysis was provided in the tabular statement presented to Yearly Meeting in 2014. We are now looking at how the tabular statement might be changed to meet current and future needs.

What information do you use? What would you find helpful? What format would work best?

For information on current developments, or to share your ideas, contact Krishna Ramamurthy: 020 7263 1109, [krishnar@quaker.org.uk](mailto:krishnar@quaker.org.uk)



Please contact your AQM Nominations Committee if you are interested in attending.



Please announce in notices.



Refer couples to your area meeting registering officer who is responsible for many parts of the Quaker marriage procedure.



Pass on to membership clerk and anyone else interested in membership statistics.

## Publications

### 11. Quaker News – spring/summer issue out soon

*Quaker News* (issue 92) should reach the person who receives it on behalf of your meeting before Sunday 26 April. The work reported in *Quaker News* is done on behalf of all Quakers in Britain, and is made possible thanks to contributions of time and money from Friends and meetings. Please encourage Friends to read *Quaker News* and thank them for supporting the work reported on within it.

For changes to your meeting's subscription, contact Andrew McVicar, 020 7663 1119, [qn@quaker.org.uk](mailto:qn@quaker.org.uk), [www.quaker.org.uk/qn](http://www.quaker.org.uk/qn)

Let Friends know a new *Quaker News* is available and thank them for supporting the work.

## Resources and opportunities for action

### 12. Climate Lobby

12–5pm 17 June, Palace of Westminster, London SW1A 2PW

Join QPSW to come together with 1000s of other people to talk to our newly-elected MPs after May's general election and before crucial international climate negotiations in December 2015.

You'll be joining the whole Climate Coalition for a really important day. We'll be going to Parliament to meet with our MPs and calling on them to take action on climate change and challenge vested interests.

Register at [www.quaker.org.uk/day-climate-action](http://www.quaker.org.uk/day-climate-action)

There will also be opportunities to get involved if you cannot come to London. Keep checking the web address above for more information.

Maya Williams, 020 7663 1056, [MayaW@Quaker.org.uk](mailto:MayaW@Quaker.org.uk)



Announce the event – encourage Friends to come to the climate lobby.

### 13. Global Day of Action on Military Spending

Monday 13 April, Around the World

How would you spend £38 billion? Fight wars or tackle climate change? Fund arms companies or fund hospitals?

The UK's military spending in 2014 was £38 billion – the sixth highest in the world. April 13 is the Global Day of Action on Military Spending. It's a chance to take action with hundreds of different groups around the world about military spending, and all of the waste and damage it involves.

Sam Walton & Tim Wallis, 020 7663 1067, [disarm@quaker.org.uk](mailto:disarm@quaker.org.uk)



If you want to take action please get in touch. Phone, send an email or tweet #demilitarize.

### 14. Quaker Equality week – what happened? what's next?

Quaker Equality Week happened in March. Over 80 local meetings got involved. There were at least 35 vigils, 5 letter writing sessions and 8 events. Other meetings also displayed posters at their meeting houses, or made economic equality displays in their local area.

If you want to stay involved with action around economic inequality: Sign up to receive *Earth & Economy* e-updates [www.quaker.org.uk/earth-and-economy](http://www.quaker.org.uk/earth-and-economy)

Attend the Quaker Equality Week follow-up day at Manchester Mount Street Meeting on Saturday 20 June.

Go to the Central England Area Meeting day conference on Economic Inequality on 24 October at Bull Street meeting House.

For more information contact Maya, 02076631056, [Mayaw@quaker.org.uk](mailto:Mayaw@quaker.org.uk)



Announce good news on the week and future opportunities.