

Monthly Mailing – May 2017

for local meeting clerks or conveners



Welcome to your May 2017 mailing.

Area meeting clerks have received the same material to help you discuss it with them if needed. Please send any feedback or queries to Gaby Scott: gabys@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1045.

NB: The next monthly mailing, for **June 2017**, will be sent out on 30 May 2017.



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



All PDF documents for this mailing are at www.quaker.org.uk/mm-may17

Listings

- **Books of the Month May 2017** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop.
- **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre: Upcoming events and courses May 2017**
Please display this courses and events listing. Booking details are given on the listing.

General election 2017

A general election will be held on 8 June. It is a short lead-in period but gives us an opportunity to engage in the political process and raise questions on Quaker concerns with parliamentary candidates. Guidance on holding hustings is available to download on the Quaker Vote website at www.quakervote.org.uk and the blog will be updated on a regular basis over the next few weeks.

You can also follow information on Twitter via @QuakerVote. If you would like to get in touch about any of the upcoming elections please email us on quakervote@quaker.org.uk

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.

Yearly Meeting Gathering bursaries

1. Bursaries still available for Yearly Meeting Gathering

If you are prevented from attending Yearly Meeting Gathering this year because of financial need we have bursaries available to help with part or all of the costs. Application is via a short form, which will also need to be signed by a local overseer. If you would like to know more please talk to your local overseers or contact:

Gary Mitchell, 020 7663 1006, garym@quaker.org.uk

Announce in notices and make overseers aware.

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

Governance

2. What have you learned from the process of reading *Quaker faith & practice*?

If you have been following the 'Reading *Quaker faith & practice* calendar', then you will have just finished the whole book.

Congratulations! We would like to find out what you have learnt from the process. Your comments will inform the process of discernment about whether it is time to revise our book of discipline, which Yearly Meeting will probably consider in 2018.

Please complete the form at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ReadingQfp
Michael Booth, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.
qfp@quaker.org.uk



Circulate the link, especially to groups and individuals who are reading *Qf&p*.

Events, conferences and courses

3. Young Friends General Meeting, May gathering

26–29 May, Sheffield Meeting House

Young Friends General Meeting will be having a three day gathering over the second May bank holiday. All young adults (18–30ish) with an interest in Quakerism are most welcome to attend. We will pay travel expenses for first-time attenders. The event promises to be interesting and stimulating, featuring a conference call with young Friends in Philadelphia, and a talk from Veterans for Peace. If your meeting does not yet have a representative to YFGM, please consider appointing a young adult and covering their costs to attend.

For further information and to register please visit YFGM's website: yfgm.quaker.org.uk. If you have any queries, contact the YFGM coordinator, Rachel Evans on yfgm@quaker.org.uk / 020 7663 1050.



Please announce this in notices and encourage all young Friends in your meeting to attend. Appoint representative(s) from your meeting.

4. Going Inside: training for Quaker prison chaplains

16–18 June, Woodbrooke, Birmingham

This training is open to all Quaker chaplains working in prisons and other secure environments, i.e. secure hospitals, detention centres, immigration removal centres etc. It is suitable for both new and more experienced chaplains, regardless of how much time they spend on chaplaincy work. It will cover the Quaker basis for prison ministry, finding and developing your ministry, practical issues, building trusting relationships, and training and support for your ministry.

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/courses



Please announce in notices.

5. QPSW / QCEA Joint Conference – 'Sanctuary Everywhere'

1–3 December, Chant d'Oiseau, Brussels

Europe is facing significant challenges relating to peace and human rights, including an increase in nationalism – and a fragmentation of the mechanism for dialogue and cooperation that has developed in the last 60 years. As Friends we oppose war, and call for peacebuilding efforts long before war is on the agenda. The question facing European Friends is what should we be doing to swim against the current tide? Come along to be informed and inspired by Quaker ideas, Quaker agencies and examples of ongoing work.

For more information and to register visit qcea.org/events



Please forward names of Friends who may benefit from this conference to your area meeting.

Refugee Week

6. Refugee Week

19–25 June

Refugee Week is an open platform for organisations to organise events amplifying the voices of people seeking sanctuary. Many meetings will be organising events for this, from talks to all-age semi-programmed meetings for worship. If your meeting is organising an event in Refugee Week please let Tim Gee know so we can help promote it. To see all of the events organised so far, visit www.quaker.org.uk/migration

Tim Gee, timothyg@quaker.org.uk

Email details of events to Tim Gee.

Quaker Week

7. Quaker Week 2017 speaker offer

30 September – 8 October

The theme for Quaker Week 2017 is 'In turbulent times: be a Quaker'. Quaker Week is our annual outreach event. We encourage meetings to use this week as an opportunity to hold events that will attract people from the local community; resources will be available in the coming months. If you would like to book a speaker please email us with suggested dates and a theme or topic you would like covered. speakers@quaker.org.uk

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Plan an event and book a speaker.

Safeguarding

8. Safeguarding update

We have been notified by the Churches' Agency for Safeguarding (CAS) that they will cease operating at the end of 2017. They will not process any more Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) forms after the end of November 2017. (This affects meetings in England and Wales only – not Scotland.) This is unfortunate and clearly means we will need to make other arrangements from 2018 for our Quaker DBS forms to be verified, processed and checked. Safeguarding coordinators will receive more information in the next few months. There will also be a safeguarding event in early 2018 to which all area meetings are invited to send a representative.

safe@quaker.org.uk

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Inform area meeting trustees and safeguarding coordinators.