Welcome to your February 2015 mailing.

This is a double mailing as there wasn’t one in January and ‘Courses, conferences and events’ are provided on a separate sheet. Please send any feedback, mailing-list updates or requests to receive the email version of the 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 February 2015** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop

  NB: The next monthly mailing, for **March 2015**, will be sent out on 24 February 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 specifically for the attention of membership clerks, but may be of interest to 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. **Young Quakers Calendar 2015**

   Giving information about events for young Quakers aged 11+ throughout 2015.

   If you would like further copies to give to young Quakers please email cypadmin@quaker.org.uk or phone 020 7663 1160.

2. **Live Adventurously event for 8- to 11-year-olds**

   *8–10 April, Gilwell Activity Centre, Essex*

   The Children & Young People’s team in Quaker Life are holding a new residential event for children aged 8–11: Live Adventurously. Linking with the 2015 Quaker Week theme, participants will take part in adventurous activities, reflect on what ‘live adventurously’ means and to come together as a community without their parents.

   Further information at www.quaker.org.uk/live-adventurously-2015

   Bookings close Friday 6 March.

   cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1013
3. Children & young people's work training in meetings

The leaflet sets out the workshops that meetings can request to support and develop work with children and young people in our meetings. The options include a new workshop, 'Building relationships in children’s meeting – nurture and discipline for people to develop their skills in working with children', as well as workshops that have been popular in the past.

cypadmin@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1013

Ecumenical work

4. Christian Aid Week

10–16 May

Christian Aid Week, held annually in May, sees churches of all denominations step out into their local communities to bring justice to the world’s poorest people. This year, Christian Aid Week confronts one of the greatest injustices of our times: discrimination against women. Our resources, available at caweek.org, tell stories of women in Ethiopia who, with the help of Christian Aid’s partners, have lifted themselves out of poverty. This May, please join us to give, act and pray to transform the lives of the world’s poorest people.

To get in touch with your local Christian Aid office see caweek.org or call 020 7620 4444

Friends World Committee for Consultation

5. To all BYM Friends from BYM Representatives to FWCC

It is FWCC that gives all of us – Quakers in Britain and elsewhere – our international standing and voice. FWCC is connecting Friends, crossing cultures, and changing lives. Please read the enclosed letter to understand why we are appealing to you and your meeting to contribute to FWCC’s work this year. We hope you will contribute to keeping Quakerism healthy worldwide.

Contact the BYM FWCC representatives via the Recording Clerk’s Office (Helen Griffiths: heleng@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1161)

General election – speaking out

6. General election pack

How can we use the upcoming general election as a opportunity to speak out about the issues which matter to us? We have prepared an election guide to help you consider what you could do, both as indivudals and as a meeting.

The guide in this mailing is also online at www.quaker.org.uk/quakervote. You can order extra copies of the guide through the website or by emailing quakervote@quaker.org.uk.

Friends on Twitter can also follow @quakervote.
8. ‘Why Prison?’
Despite the widespread use of prison sentences in Britain, it is not always clear why people are sent there. The Crime, Community and Justice Subcommittee (CCJS) of Quaker Peace & Social Witness has produced a framework for discussion to explore the purposes, effectiveness and experience of imprisonment as a response to criminal actions. It can be downloaded from www.quaker.org.uk/ccjs-briefings. CCJS members are happy to come and facilitate a ‘Why Prison?’ workshop for your meeting, particularly between now and the general election.
Paula Harvey, 020 7663 1036, paulah@quaker.org.uk

Governance

9. Data safety and information security: guidance for meetings
If you have queries not covered by the document, you can contact Helen Griffith (general queries, heleng@quaker.org.uk), Gary Mitchell (general queries and database queries, garym@quaker.org.uk), or Lisa McQuillan (general queries and records, lisam@quaker.org.uk), who will be pleased to help.

10. Meeting for Sufferings Review Group on the Relationship with Listed Informal Groups
Meeting for Sufferings is reviewing how BYM relates to listed informal groups and other Quaker bodies. It has appointed a small group to describe the rich diversity of these groups and make suggestions for determining the nature of their connection to BYM. The group wants to contact all Quaker-related groups and organisations. The group members are: Joycelin Dawes, Jennifer Kavanagh, David Lewis, and Martin Schweiger. We hope that every group in Britain that considers itself in some way ‘Quaker’ will respond to our initial survey so that we can gather up-to-date information and contact details.
Email sufferings@quaker.org.uk or write/phone
Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ, 0207 663 110

Quaker Life

11. Experiment with Light
Quaker Life recognises that for some Friends, Experiment with Light can be a powerful way of deepening their spiritual life. Experience has shown that the practice contributes best to the life of the meeting when it is undertaken in a group that is in the care of the meeting and supported by elders. To facilitate this, we are enclosing details of opportunities in 2015 for learning more about the practice. Please share this with elders, overseers and interested Friends.
Susie Tombs, 01386 840 406
experimentwithlight@gmail.com, www.experiment-with-light.org.uk
Coming soon: Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel 2016

Interested in being an ecumenical accompanier in 2016? The next mailing will include details of how and when to apply for the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel to serve in 2016. The deadline for applications is earlier than normal this year and will be Monday 27 April 2015. The application pack and all the information will be on www.quaker.org.uk/applyeappi from the beginning of March.

Progress report: End of year updates

Has this mailing been sent to the right person? We’re still only halfway through processing the hundreds of updates that local meetings have sent in for the Book of Meetings 2015, so if your meeting contact changed in the new year, there’s a possibility that this mailing might have gone to the outgoing clerk or correspondent.

We’re sorry if this has happened – please pass it on to the right person. If you’re in one of the 90% of local meetings that have already sent us your Book of Meetings update, we’ll update our records as soon as possible – and if you’re not, please send your update as soon as possible, by email to bookofmeetings@quaker.org.uk or by post to:

Book of Meetings update, Freepost QUAKERS.
1. **Handling Conflict in our Meetings**  
*13 February 2015, Woodbrooke, Birmingham*

This course will teach you the skills to deal with conflict when it arises. You’ll also be given the tools to be able to restore peace and reframe negative feelings.

2. **Preparing for the General Election**  
*13 February 2015, Woodbrooke, Birmingham*

This course run by Jessica Metheringham, Parliamentary Engagement Officer at Britain Yearly Meeting, will cover: Facts about the election; What can you and your meeting do?; Concern to message; Hopes and fears.

*The cost for this course has been reduced by a third as part of Woodbrooke’s support for Friends learning in the areas of testimony and engagement in the world.*

Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ  
0121 472 5171, enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk

3. **Quaker chaplaincy weekend – It’s not about me...**  
*6–8 March 2015, Woodbrooke, Birmingham*

As chaplains we need to care for ourselves; nurture the spirit and develop emotional resilience. This weekend with tutors Joan Harrison (hospital chaplain), Paul Jeorrett (university chaplain) and Emma Roberts (prison chaplain) and speakers Alistair Fuller (Quaker Life), Ben Ryan of THEOS and Methodist chaplaincy officer Stan Brown is an opportunity to share good practice, celebrate our diversity, explore new ways of working, strengthen Quaker chaplaincy and encourage and affirm each other in our work. If you are a meeting supporting chaplains – or a chaplain in need of support – please contact us to find out more.

Andrew O’Hanlon, 020 7663 1017, andrewo@quaker.org.uk  
To make a booking go to http://bit.ly/quachap

4. **QPSW Spring Conference and Annual Conference of Treasurers: new links to online appointment forms**

The online appointment forms for the QPSW Spring Conference (13–15 March) and the Annual Conference of Treasurers (27 June) have new URLs. Please use the following links to inform us of your appointments.

QPSW Spring Conference: https://forms.quaker.org.uk/?p=355  
Annual Conference of Treasurers: https://forms.quaker.org.uk/?p=359  
Kristin Skarsholt, kristins@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1121

5. **Swarthmoor Hall 2015 Programme Guide**

The 2015 Programme Guide shows the wide range of courses, retreats and events running in 2015 – including those which are run in partnership with Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. We hope there is something for everyone. For Friends who are visiting the area or who live locally please also note the growing number of regular spiritual activities which are happening at the hall.
6. Finding Out About Quakers residential weekend  
10–12 April 2015, Charney Manor, OX12 0EJ  
For people who know little or nothing about Quakers and want to explore further. Come and discover more about core Quaker beliefs and hear how Quakers live their lives. Guided by facilitators from the Quaker Quest team you will be encouraged to reflect, ask questions and share thoughts with others in the tranquil and welcoming setting of Charney Manor. Cost: £181 including accommodation and meals. A second weekend is planned for 23–25 October 2015.  

7. Engaging Faiths on the Nuclear Issue  
28 February 2015, Friends House, London  
Quaker Peace & Social Witness and Religions for Peace are holding a day event at Friends House to help other churches and faiths better understand the nuclear issue and to raise it up as a faith issue among their local congregations and communities. Friends who work with other churches and/or faith communities are especially invited to participate. There will be workshops on working in different faith communities as well as plenary speakers from different faiths and those with specific nuclear expertise.  
Tim Wallis, timw@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1067

8. Thinking Through Threshing  
14 March 2015, Friends House, London  
Friends are invited to join Rhiannon Grant and Rachel Muers to think about how threshing is used and understood by Quakers in Britain today. This workshop is part of a research project, which will also include an online survey. Please contact Rhiannon Grant for further information.  
Rhiannon Grant, gs09reg@leeds.ac.uk or 07789 120 256

9. Quaker Equality Week  
6–15 March 2015  
Manchester & Warrington Social Justice Group are being supported by Quaker Peace & Social Witness to create Quaker Equality Week. From 6–15 March we are asking Friends to display posters, hold a vigil or organise an event to highlight the issue of inequality. There will be posters and leaflets available to support activities. Manchester & Warrington Friends are creating a website with information for the week and ideas for how to continue action beyond March.  
If you plan to join in email Enid Pinch (enidpinch@gmail.com) for additional information.  
Maya Williams, QPSW, 020 7663 1056, mayaw@quaker.org.uk

10. Quaker United Nations Summer School  
5–17 July 2015, Geneva  
The Quaker United Nations Summer School, held in Geneva from 5 to 17 July, is now being advertised. Application packs available from www.quaker.org.uk or from Helen Bradford in Friends House.  
helenb@quaker.org.uk