

Monthly Mailing – February 2015

for local meeting clerks or conveners



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.



Please display this in your meeting house.

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



Please pass this leaflet on to those in your meeting with children of this age.

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 Consulation

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 individuals 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.



Please ensure that elders are aware and pass the leaflet to your CYP committee.



Please share the enclosed flyer with your group, and join us to give, act and pray this Christian Aid Week.



Please read the letter aloud and pass it to your finance committee or other appropriate committee.



Please read this out in notices, and use the coloured flyers enclosed in the pack on your notice board.

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/ccjg-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

Friends House Data Safety Group have updated the document 'Data Safety and Information Security: guidance for meetings' and this is available at www.quaker.org.uk/data-safety-handbook.

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

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Please bring this to the attention of Friends.



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Please make this link known to Friends, particularly those dealing with personal information.



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If any Quaker group has not been contacted and would like to be included, please let us know.

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Publicise at local meeting and distribute and display the information on the flyer.

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/applyeppi 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.

Courses, conferences and events

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.

Please let your meeting know about this course

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


Please make the meeting aware of this course.

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>

 Please share with your meeting – particularly those who support the work of chaplains.



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

  Please share with your nominations committee or others who will complete the appointment forms.

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.

  1 Please encourage Friends to call for extra copies/view our website.

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.

Kay Gibbard, course administrator, admin@charneymanor.com
01235 868 206, www.charneymanor.com, www.quakerquest.org

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Invite any newcomers or recent attenders who would like to find out more about Quakers to attend the weekend.

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

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Please announce in notices and put flyer up on bulletin board for those who may be interested.

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

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Please read in notices and pass to current or former clerks and elders.

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

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Raise Quaker Equality Week at your next business meeting, decide if your meeting plans to take part.

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

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Announce in notices and pass to any interested young Friends.