

Monthly Mailing – November 2016

for local meeting clerks or conveners



Welcome to your November 2016 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 **December 2016**, will be sent out on 29 November 2016.



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-nov16

Listings and magazines

- **Books of the Month November 2016** from the Quaker Centre Bookshop.
- **Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre: Upcoming events and courses November 2016**
Please display this courses and events listing. Booking details are given on the listing.
- **The Young Quaker Magazine** Issue on community featuring articles about the Findhorn Community, difficulties of discernment and London's Younger Quaker Worship Group.

Quaker Peace & Social Witness newsletters available online:

- **Earth and Economy** Newsletter for information and action on sustainability and economic justice. Including investing in a green and just economy, what Brexit means for the UK's trade policy, and news from Friends taking action across the country.
www.quaker.org.uk/eartheconomy
- **Educate and Disarm** The latest peace education and disarmament update features the story of a 10 year-old's conscientious objection, grounds for optimism in the struggle against nuclear weapons, Quakers spreading peacemaking in schools, the Peace Tax Bill and stopping arms to Saudi. www.quaker.org.uk/educate-disarm

For the latest paper copies email qpsw@quaker.org.uk

Reminder

Quaker Activist Gathering

Places are still available at the Quaker Activist Gathering on 3 December at Friargate Quaker Meeting House, York. It will be a day to connect, share ideas and to inspire each other. No cost for attending. Places can be booked online at www.quaker.org.uk/events/activist-gathering or by email kristins@quaker.org.uk.

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. Living our faith in the world event

8 –13 April 2017, Embercombe, Exeter, Devon

A five-day event for young Quakers aged 13 to 17 and their friends. Young people will participate in Embercombe's LEAP Programme which aims to inspire and empower them through learning from the environment by contributing to tasks such as gardening, building and cooking. They will learn sustainable living skills and reflect on their experience in relation to this and Quaker testimonies.

Application deadline: 1 December 2016.

Shared accommodation in yurts.

020 7663 1013, cypadmin@quaker.org.uk

www.yospace.org.uk/bym-events

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Announce in notices and share with young people and their families.

Training and conference

2. Being Friends Together Training Day

10 November 2016, Woodbrooke, Birmingham

There are still places available on the one-day training event. There is no charge but advance booking is required. It is a day to learn how to explore 'Being Friends Together' online learning material at together.woodbrooke.org.uk. It provides resources to support the national Reading *Quaker faith & practice* scheme and has historical learning material on our Christian tradition which could augment the Radical Spirituality course recently offered by Lancaster University.

No skill or experience is necessary. Free lunch included.

To reserve a place, please email together@quaker.org.uk

together.woodbrooke.org.uk

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Let Friends know about this free training day and how to book for it.

3. Spirituality and End of Life Conference

4 March 2017, Friargate Meeting House, York

Friends are invited to attend this one-day conference in York to hear from Christian and other faiths about spiritual approaches to end of life issues.

The day will include presentations and small group discussions led by both the speakers and members of the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR). There will be time for sharing experiences, reflections and questions. A number of speakers have been approached and more details on costs and how to book will be available early next year. QCCIR encourages area meetings to appoint Friends to attend.

Graham Spackman, 020 7663 1021, grahams@quaker.org.uk

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If you have names to forward to us, please send them to grahams@quaker.org.uk

Outreach

4. Ongoing Outreach

Outreach is for every day not just for Quaker Week!

We are delighted that during September 2016 we sent out 168 enquirers packs to individuals and 742 packs to meetings for you to distribute. This compares with our usual mail out of 200.

If you are planning outreach events, we can mail an invitation to recent enquirers in your area. Let us know the details of your next event and the county at outreach@quaker.org.uk. We will then send an invitation to people who have recently requested a pack. Please note we cannot let you have the email addresses of the individuals.

outreach@quaker.org.uk

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Contact us if you want assistance in publicising an event.

Support material

5. Toolkit for Action

Britain Yearly Meeting has put together a 'Toolkit for Action' to help Friends take more effective action on issues they care about. Drawing from knowledge and stories of Friends' witness across the UK.

Eight guides are available for meetings and individuals to use. These cover topics from how to plan effective action for change and organise actions, to reaching the media and engaging elected representatives.

Visit www.quaker.org.uk/toolkit-for-action

If you would like paper copies, please contact

Maya Williams, 020 7663 1056, mayaw@quaker.org.uk

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Share flyer with Friends.

6. Encounters accompaniment

The Quaker Life Network Mental Health in Meetings Cluster has developed a leaflet to accompany the book 'Encounters with mental distress: Quaker stories' that it published in 2015.

The new leaflet gives ideas on how Quakers might use the book to explore mental health, mental illness and issues relating to mental wellbeing in Quaker communities.

Find the leaflet enclosed or online at www.quaker.org.uk/documents/encounters-accompaniment.

Oliver Waterhouse, 020 7663 1007, qlnetwork@quaker.org.uk

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Pass this leaflet or link to Friends with eldership or oversight responsibilities in your meeting.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

7. Support for Friends World Committee for Consultation

Representatives serving on Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) ask for your prayerful upholding and financial support of FWCC's work. Quaker concerns cross continents and varied ways of worship and theology. We hope you can help support FWCC as it continues to connect Friends in our work, our worship and our lives.

Marleen Schepers, 020 7663 1143, marleens@quaker.org.uk

www.quaker.org.uk/qwrc

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Please ask your meeting to consider how you could best support FWCC.

Governance

8. Giving to non-Quaker organisations

Quaker Stewardship Committee has recently prepared a paper on the circumstances in which AMs and LMs can give a grant or donation to a non-Quaker charity or organisation from meeting funds and how such giving should be managed. This has already been sent to clerks of AM trustees but other interested Friends, particularly clerks and treasurers, can get a copy from Helen Griffith.

Helen Griffith, 020 7663 1161, heleng@quaker.org.uk

9. Church Government: a questionnaire

Please would you take a few minutes to complete this online questionnaire: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ChurchGov>

The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group is keen to find out more about how Friends in Britain currently use *Quaker faith & practice (Qf&p)*. In particular, we want to know whether and how Friends who have been appointed to various roles in the society use the church government sections of *Qf&p* to help them (chapters 3–9 and 11–17). This will be helpful in any future revision. Whether you use *Qf&p* often or infrequently, your thoughts are important to us.

Deadline for completing questionnaire: 12 January 2017

Michael Booth, 020 7663 1023, qfp@quaker.org.uk

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Please alert any relevant Friends.

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Please spread the word and encourage Friends to complete the questionnaire.