

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



Documents in Advance part I

Information & Practicalities

Young Friends General Meeting 29th April – 2nd April 2022

This information & practicalities document provides information about YFGM's May 2022 gathering, which will be held in-person in Liverpool, UK.

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Before YFGM:

Contact the YFGM email: yfgmclerk@gmail.com if you have any questions or needs.

The Meeting House.

YFGM is being held at 'Quaker Meeting House', Liverpool, UK. The address is:

Quaker Meeting House Liverpool
22 School Lane
Liverpool
L1 3BT

The Meeting House is under 10 minutes' walk away from Liverpool Lime Street train station, and under 5 minutes from Liverpool Central train station.

Newcomers.

YFGM newcomers can request to join the YFGM Newcomer WhatsApp Group, run by pastoral committee. This group is for people participating in Young Friends General Meeting for the first time, and those who feel new to the YFGM community. Its purpose is to allow Friends to ask questions about what to expect at YFGM and learn a little about how YFGM functions. In the group to answer your questions are a member of Pastoral Committee, and a member of Outreach (and hopefully an Elder soon). For any sign-up requests please email yfgmclerk@gmail.com with the subject line "newcomer".

Accessibility

If you have any access needs you would like taken into consideration and that you feel YFGM needs to be aware of, in order for you to engage with the meeting, please mention it in your registration or alternatively email yfgmclerk@gmail.com and put **access requirement and your name** (ex. 'Access requirement Jasmin Higgs') in the subject heading.

The Meeting House has accessible facilities across the building- there is an accessible lift to all floors, a hearing loop installed in the Large Meeting Room and the Small Meeting Room, and a portable hearing loop.

Nominations

Nominations is a key part of Quaker process, and while much of it takes place behind closed doors, it is central to the life of any Meeting. Almost every role within YFGM is appointed following a nomination by Nominations Committee. As such, all of the work of YFGM depends on this being done

well. While the key work of discernment is done by the Nominations Committee, the whole Meeting is responsible for nominations, and needs to support the committee in doing their work.

As a Quaker organisation, YFGM uses the Quaker nominations process to find people to fill volunteer roles within the Meeting. You can read more about nominations [here](#).

This YFGM gathering we will be nominating roles including:

- Co-clerk
- Finance Trustee
- Fundraiser
- Logistics Committee
- Nominations Committee
- Eldership Committee
- Planning Weekend Newcomer
- Communications Trustee
- Meeting for Sufferings Rep

Please go to the [YFGM website](#) for details on roles and to submit your nominations. At YFGM, please find a Friend on the Nominations Committee.

YFGM TIMETABLE.

FRIDAY			
Time	Main	Secondary	Room
18:00			
18:15			
18:30	Opening Worship		Large meeting room
18:45			
19:00	Introduction / welcome		Large meeting room
19:15			
19:30			
19:45			
20:00	Evening meal	Newcomers' session	Meal: Small meeting room
20:15			Newcomers' session: the lecture room
20:30			
20:45			
21:00			
21:15			
21:30	Epilogue		Large meeting room
21:45			
22:00 on	Unscheduled social time		

SATURDAY			
Time	Main	Secondary	Room
8:00			
8:15			
8:30	Breakfast		Small meeting room
8:45			
9:00			
9:15			
9:30			

9:45			
10:00	Introduction / welcome		Large meeting room
10:15			
10:30	Intro to QBM		Large meeting room
10:45	Reports		
11:00	Shuffle break		
11:15	Business: Noms, Roles & Communications		Large meeting room
11:30			
11:45			
12:00			
12:15	Intro to Noms		
12:30	Lunch		Small meeting room
12:45			
13:00			
13:15			
13:30			
13:45			
14:00	Spirituality session		The institute room
14:15			
14:30			
14:45			
15:00	Break		
15:15			
15:30	Business: Accounts & War in Ukraine	Newcomers' session	Newcomers' session: the institute room
15:45			Business: large meeting room
16:00			
16:15			
16:30	Break		
16:45			
17:00	SIG slot 1		Depending on the SIG: the institute room and/or the Margaret Fell room
17:15			
17:30			

17:45			
18:00	Evening meal		Small meeting room
18:15			
18:30			
18:45			
19:00			
19:15			
19:30	Entertainments		Large meeting room
19:45			
20:00			
20:15			
20:30			
20:45	Break		
21:00	Epilogue with a focus on Ukraine		Large meeting room
21:15			
21:30 on	Unscheduled social time		

SUNDAY			
Time	Main	Secondary	Room
8:00	Breakfast		Small meeting room
8:15			
8:30			
8:45			
9:00			
9:15			
9:30	Everybody clean the meeting house		
9:45			
10:00	Prep for Meeting for Worship		The institute room
10:15			
10:30	Meeting for Worship (with local Friends)		Large meeting room
10:45			
11:00			
11:15			

11:30	Notices & chat with local Friends		
11:45			
12:00			
12:15	Lunch		Small meeting room
12:30			
12:45			
13:00			
13:15			
13:30			
13:45	SIG slot 2		Depending on the SIG: the institute room and/or the Margaret Fell room
14:00			
14:15			
14:30			
14:45	Break		
15:00	Business: Return of the Noms		Large meeting room
15:15			
15:30			
15:45			
16:00			
16:15	Break		
16:30			
16:45			
17:00	Community time		
17:15			
17:30			
17:45			
18:00	Evening meal		Small meeting room
18:15			
18:30			
18:45			
19:00			Newcomers' session
19:15	Entertainments		
19:30			
19:45			

20:00			
20:15			
20:30			
20:45	Break		
21:00	Epilogue		Large meeting room
21:15			
21:30 on	Unscheduled social time		

	MONDAY		
Time	Main	Secondary	Room
8:00			
8:15			
8:30	Breakfast		Small meeting room
8:45			
9:00			
9:15			
9:30			
9:45			
10:00	SIG slot 3		Depending on the SIG: the institute room and/or the Margaret Fell room
10:15			
10:30			
10:45			
11:00	Break		
11:15			
11:30	B: Minutes of record Noms to Noms AOB that may properly be taken		Large meeting room
11:45			
12:00			
12:15			
12:30	Closing worship		Large meeting room
12:45			
13:00	Everybody clean the meeting house		
13:15			

13:30	Lunch		Small meeting room
13:45			
14:00			
14:15			
14:30			
14:45			
15:00	Departures		
15:15			

Notes on room assignments at Liverpool Meeting House.

- **The small meeting room** (located on the first floor) is the assigned **meal room** for the weekend; this room will be permanently set up with tables and chairs to use during mealtimes, reducing the amount of clear up needing to be done after each meal. This room is also near the kitchen where the food will be prepared. This room will also be used for socialising to prevent (possibly noisy!) gathering in the foyer during times of Business
- **The library** (located on the first floor) is the assigned **committee room** for the weekend; meetings of YFGM committees can take place in this room when they need a private space (except Nominations, who have their own room)
- **The lecture room** (located on the second floor) is the assigned **Nominations committee room** for the weekend; this room has a small preparations area to use
- **The George Fox room** (located on the third floor) is the assigned **Quiet Room** for the weekend and has access to an outside terrace; this room is for every Friend who needs space away from the days' activities for whatever reason. It is encouraged that Friends do not speak extensively or participate in noisy activities in this room; headphones are greatly encouraged!
- Sleeping arrangements:
 - o **Early room** (11pm) – the lecture room (the second floor)
 - o **Midnight room** (12am) – the institute room (the second floor)
 - o **Women's* room** (trans and non-binary inclusive; 12am) – the Margaret Fell room (second floor)
 - o **Late room** (past 12am) – the large meeting room (the first floor)

Information for Business and Other Sessions

Meeting for Worship for Business.

A Quaker business meeting is essentially a meeting for worship, except that it has a pre-arranged agenda. A meeting starts with a period of quiet worship. The clerk then opens the business part of the meeting. As in a secular meeting, someone presents an item, and answers questions of clarification. But rather than debating the matter, the gathering then tries to discern what is needed in answer to the item in an atmosphere of worship. Spoken contributions are offered as ministry.

Once an item on the agenda has been introduced to the meeting anyone may speak; it is the practice to stand and wait to be called by the clerk. There is no need to repeat a point which has already been made, or to speak twice to the same matter unless asked to do so. If things seem to be getting heated, the clerk or another Friend may ask for a period of silence.

Clerks prepare the agenda, do the necessary administration and guide the meeting through the items of business. The clerk has to try and discern the outcome of each item (often called 'the sense of the meeting'), and to prepare a draft minute to lay before the gathering. Although it is the meeting that is really in charge, clerks carry a lot of responsibility. We need to support them and do all we can to avoid making their job more difficult by holding private conversations while a minute is being drafted, for instance, or by quibbling over a good enough minute.

Spirituality.

Meeting for Worship.

Meeting for Worship is when we come together as Friends to sit in stillness. In the quiet we look for a sense of connection; this might be a connection with those around us, with our deepest selves, or perhaps with God. Sometimes we may feel called to speak to our experiences in Meeting, and this is called 'ministry'. The Meeting usually lasts about an hour and ends when Friends shake hands or provide another signal. This YFGM we will be worshipping on Sunday with Liverpool Meeting.

Epilogue.

Epilogue is a form of Quaker worship and is similar to Meeting for Worship. YFGM schedules this at the end of each day. The focus of Epilogue is to have some worship time together; there will be space to minister and there may be a reading by the Elders.

Spirituality sessions.

The spirituality sessions are also led by the YFGM Elders. This session will be considering Quaker Faith & Practice and how it speaks to us.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs).

Any member of YFGM is free to contribute a session based around a specific interest or topic. There are several special interest groups (known as SIGS) running throughout the weekend:

- Gift Circle – run by Tom Bell
- Ukraine: Practical action – run by Tom Bell
- Bible Study – Grace Roberts and Rebecca Morgan

If you would like to run a SIG this coming May YFGM that is not mentioned above, then please contact Logistics Committee during the weekend and your SIG can be arranged.

Entertainments (Ents).

Entertainments (known as Ents) is a block of time dedicated to socialising with the YFGM community through structured activities. Pastoral Committee are the committee that organise Ents at each YFGM. Pastoral have plans for Ents, which are detailed below:

- Saturday night: board games night; crafts tables.
- Sunday night: surprise entertainments.