

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



Documents in Advance Part I

Information & Practicalities

Young Friends General Meeting 24th - 27th May 2024

This information & practicalities document provides information about YFGM's May 2024 gathering, which will be held at Liverpool Quaker Meeting House. This is an extended weekend (Friday - Monday) due to the bank holiday.

Table of Contents

Information & Practicalities	1
Before YFGM:	2
The Meeting House	2
Arrivals	3
Newcomers	3
Accessibility	4
What do I need to bring?	4
During YFGM:	4
Sleeping Arrangements	4
Bag rooms	4
Cooking, cleaning, & sharing a space	4
Eating together	5
Nominations	5
YFGM TIMETABLE	6
Explanation of Sessions	9
Meeting for Worship	9
Epilogue	9
Meeting for Worship for Business	9
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)	10

Entertainments (Ents)

10

Before YFGM:

Join the YFGM Discord server to chat to other YFGMers and ask any questions: <https://discord.com/invite/UNjHwQh8CQ>

If you have access needs or practical concerns please email logistics@youngfriends.org.uk; for questions about the agenda or business, get in touch with clerks@youngfriends.org.uk.

The Meeting House

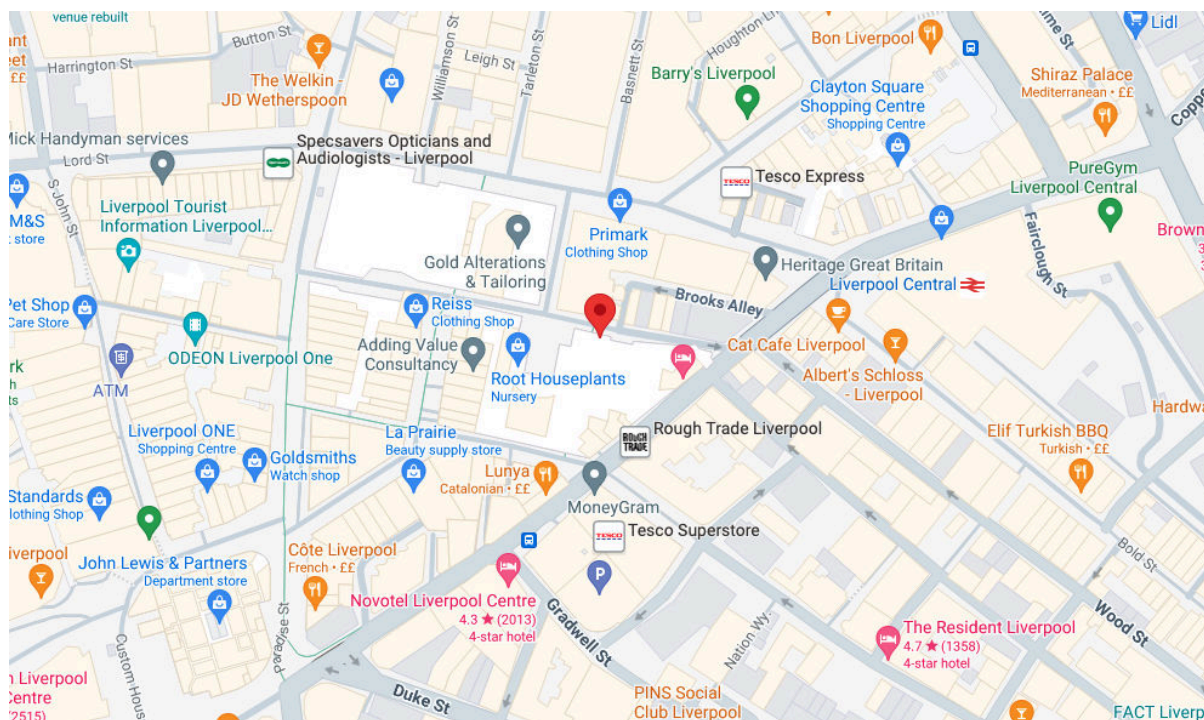
YFGM is being held at Liverpool Quaker Meeting House. The address is: 22 School Ln, Liverpool L1 3BT.

The nearest train stations are Liverpool Central, 150m from the Meeting House (approximately a 2 minute walk), and Liverpool Lime Street, 500m from the Meeting House. The nearest bus station, Liverpool One Bus Station, is 500m away.

There is limited parking at the meeting house. The nearest car park is Q-Park Hanover Street.

Liverpool Quakers' customers will receive a 20% discount on parking at Q-Park Hanover Street by using the promo code **QUAKERSLV** when pre-booking through the website [Q-Park](#). Hanover Street Q-Park is 100m away.

If you need to park at the meeting house for accessibility reasons please contact logistics on logistics@youngfriends.org.uk who will help organise access.



Arrivals

On Friday, arrivals start at 6pm and we begin with Opening Worship at 6:30pm. If possible, please arrive in time for the opening session at 8:30pm, which will include an introduction to YFGM and essential notices.

Some YFGMers will be at the Meeting House earlier than 6pm, helping to set up, if you are able to arrive earlier (no earlier than 5pm) and can help with cooking on Friday please email logistics@youngfriends.org.uk we will be grateful for this assistance.

Newcomers

If it's your first time at YFGM (or you haven't been in a while, or you simply feel new) then you can request to join the YFGM Newcomer WhatsApp Group, run by the pastoral committee. The chat is to allow Friends to ask questions about what to expect at YFGM and learn a little about how YFGM functions. Some members of our Pastoral and Eldership committees will be in the group to answer any questions you may have. For any sign-up requests please email pastoral@youngfriends.org.uk with the subject line "newcomer".

During the weekend, there will be three newcomers sessions. These are optional sessions that you can come along to, to help get to know each other and answer questions.

Accessibility

Making our events as accessible as possible is a priority for us. If you have any access needs that you feel YFGM needs to be aware of, or any queries about accessibility, please mention it in your registration or email logistics@youngfriends.org.uk.

At Liverpool Meeting House there is lift access to all floors and there are accessible toilets available.

What do I need to bring?

A weekend's (+bank holiday monday) worth of clothes, toiletries, medication, and any other personal items you need. If sleeping in the Meeting House a sleeping bag and pillow, plus we recommend a mat or air mattress for comfort.

You don't need to bring any food or drink with you, as we'll cook and eat together; however, if you do bring additional snacks, please be mindful of common allergies and avoid bringing nuts (or shellfish!).

During YFGM:

Sleeping Arrangements

There will be a number of separate sleeping areas designated during the weekend. Each room will have a set "lights out" time - at least one each of 11pm, midnight, and late (no specific time).

For those who require off-site accommodation (i.e. a bed), there are plenty of hotels in Liverpool including a nearby Premier Inn (City Centre). If you need support with the cost of this, our accessibility and bursary policy found here: <https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/claim-expenses/> may be relevant - contact treasurer@youngfriends.org.uk for more information.

Bag rooms

During the day, a room will be designated as a 'bag room'. Please make sure that you put your bags (and sleeping bags, shoes, air mattresses etc.) away in this room during the daytime, to keep other rooms tidy and accessible.

Cooking, cleaning, & sharing a space

For the duration of a weekend, we form a short-lived intentional community; we share a living space. As part of keeping that space usable we ask that everyone contribute to the best of their ability with the

cooking, washing up and cleaning. This YFGM we are making a change - kitchen tasks will be done on a sign up basis similar to the door duty rota (see below). We've made this change so that you can take into account your preferences and availability in choosing your tasks.

We also take turns minding the door to the meeting house, to make sure that new arrivals are welcomed, curious passers-by are greeted and that the fire register is kept.

When you arrive you will be given stickers for the door rota and community tasks, please write your name on them and use them to sign up for one or two door sessions so that the work is fairly shared out. Be sure to look through the timetable before the event to see if there is anything you do not want to miss - or when you might feel that a bit of time on the door would be nice!

Cooking, washing up and cleaning are done on the same basis. We are not assigning tasks but asking that everyone take on two slots of kitchen tasks and one meeting house cleaning task.

Please look out for other opportunities to help out. If furniture needs rearranging, water jugs need refilling, something needs cleaning, or if the washing up is taking longer than expected, etc, then please lend a hand - it will make everybody's YFGM more pleasant.

Eating together

The meals at YFGM will be vegetarian or vegan, with vegan options available. Please let us know about allergies or intolerances when you register, so that we can make sure suitable options are provided when putting together the menu. We'll aim to include the planned menu in Docs in Advance Part II, but these may be subject to change at short notice.

Nominations

As a Quaker organisation, YFGM uses the Quaker nominations process to find people to fill volunteer roles within the Meeting. Nominations are 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.

We ask our whole community to make suggestions for people they think might fill particular roles. This is very valuable, since we are a large enough community that a small group can't possibly know everyone well.

YFGM nominations committee will approach people who have been suggested during or in the run up to the next YFGM event to find out if they are willing and able to be in the role or roles their name has been suggested for. They will discern, using the Quaker business method, who is right for a given role at a given time, and bring that forward to the Meeting for appointment. You are very welcome to suggest your own name.

Almost every role within YFGM is appointed following a nomination by the Nominations Committee - the big exception is the Nominations Committee itself. 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 by upholding them, by making suggestions, and by considering approaches with a frank and open mind.

This YFGM gathering we will be nominating roles including:

- **Planning Weekend Newcomer:** Someone who hasn't previously attended a YFGM planning weekend, who attends, feeds in, and provides a report to YFGM on their experience.
- **Pastoral Committee:** Be on hand to run newcomers' sessions and social spaces, support YFGMers to access YFGM and support the wellbeing of all YFGMers (as a committee of 5 people).
- **Co-Clerk:** Our co-clerks represent YFGM to other bodies, clerk YFGM's business meetings, work closely with Elders, Trustees and Switchboard to keep up to date with what is going on within YFGM and the wider Quaker world (with another co-clerk).

Please go to the YFGM website <https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/> for details on roles and the nominations process, and to submit your nominations. At YFGM, please find a Friend on the Nominations Committee or use the submissions box that will be advertised.

YFGM TIMETABLE

Friday

18:00 - 19:00	Arrivals
18:30 - 19:00	Opening Worship
19:00 - 20:30	Evening mealtime, including:
20:00 - 20:30	<i>Newcomers' welcome session</i>

20:30 - 21:30	Introduction & welcome session
21:30 - 22:00	Epilogue (evening worship)

Saturday

08:30 - 09:45	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:45 - 10:00	Opening Worship
10:00 - 11:45	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Introduction to Quaker Business Method</i>
	<i>Introduction to Nominations</i>
	<i>Closer links with EMEYF</i>
	<i>Update on plans for a wake for Naomi Haigh</i>
11:30 - 11:45	<i>Break</i>
11:45 - 12:45	Special Interest Groups
12:45 - 14:15	Lunch
14:15 - 15:45	Spirituality Session: What is Ministry?
15:45 - 16:00	<i>Break</i>
16:00 - 16:45	Special Interest Groups
16:45 - 17:00	<i>Break</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Reports: Planning Weekend newcomers, Switchboard, Quaker Rainbow and YMAC</i>
	<i>Future of British Quakerism conference</i>
18:00 - 19:30	Evening mealtime, including:
	<i>Big Notices!</i>
19:30 - 21:15	Entertainments
21:15 - 21:30	<i>Break</i>
21:30 - 22:00	Epilogue
22:00 -	Unscheduled social time

00:00	Meeting House doors locked
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Sunday

08:00 - 09:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:00 - 10:00	Cleaning the meeting house
10:00 - 10:30	Preparation for Meeting for Worship
10:30 - 11:30	Meeting for Worship (with local Friends)
11:30 - 12:00	Notices & chat with local friends / <i>Break</i>
12:00 - 13:30	<i>Lunchtime with local Friends</i>
13:30 - 15:00	Community Time
15:00 - 16:45	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Future of British Quakerism conference continued</i>
	<i>Marriage: What words do we use?</i>
16:45 - 17:00	<i>Break</i>
17:00 - 18:00	Special Interest Groups
18:00 - 19:30	Evening meal
19:30 - 21:15	Entertainments
21:15 - 21:30	<i>Break</i>
21:30 - 22:00	Epilogue
22:00 -	Unscheduled social time
00:00	Meeting House doors locked

Monday

08:30 - 09:30	<i>Breakfast</i>
09:30 - 10:30	SIG slot 4
10:30 - 10:45	<i>Break</i>
10:45 - 13:00	Meeting for Worship for Business, including
	<i>Report from Trustees</i>

	<i>Receiving annual report and accounts</i>
	<i>Change of signatories</i>
	<i>Shuffle break</i>
	<i>Nominations Returns</i>
	<i>Minutes of Record</i>
13:00 - 14:15	<i>Lunch</i>
14:15 - 15:00	Cleaning the meeting house
15:00 - 15:30	Closing Worship

Explanation of Sessions

This gives general information about types of sessions run during the weekend. Details for specific sessions / items this YFGM will be available in documents in advance part II.

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 the local Meeting for Worship.

Epilogue

Epilogue is a period of Quaker worship at the end of each day. It is a form of Meeting for Worship, and usually quite reflective. There will sometimes be a reading by the Elders or some prompt or activity as a focus. We tend to encourage sitting on the floor / lying down / cushions and blankets to make epilogue a cosy experience.

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.

Details of business items will be available in documents in advance part 2.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Special Interest Groups (known as SIGs) are smaller sessions based around specific interests or topics. These might be discussions on a particular topic, craft activities, walks, or anything else - previous YFGMs have included tasting a selection of tea varieties, discussions about membership, learning about Moravian side wound theology, and getting in the sea. Any member of YFGM is free to contribute a session, and we will usually have several running in parallel - hopefully quite a variety!

SIGs planned to run this weekend include:

- Marriage: what words do we use?
- What is a Concern anyway?
- Could we have online YFGM business sessions?
- Ideas for new venues for YFGMs
- Let's talk simplicity
- Rest!
- Engaging with Yearly Meeting 2024
- Dance & Movement
- Trans inclusion: how do we support and take action?
- Taking forward our action on Palestine
- ...and more!

Further SIGs can be arranged subject to time and space being available - please speak to the Logistics Committee ahead of or during YFGM (before the SIG slots) if you would like to run one.

Entertainments (Ents)

Entertainments (known as Ents) is a block of time dedicated to socialising with the YFGM community through structured activities. This YFGM our entertainments or "ents" will be a Taskmaster themed evening and screen printing tea towels on Saturday, and a quiz and Quaker meme making on Sunday.

Big Notices!

A YFGM tradition is Big Notices on Sunday evening. Have you been doing something exciting that you want to tell people about, or have an opportunity for people to get involved with?

Maybe you've published a book, had a baby, produced a play, or maybe you want to find other people interested in running a campaign in your area; any of these and more could be a Big Notice.

If you have a Big Notice to share with everyone, get in touch with the Clerks (Tim Rouse and Hannah Stranex) before the Saturday evening meal or email clerks@youngfriends.org.uk to let them know. You can also put Big Notices in the relevant channel on Discord.