

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

Documents in Advance part II

Hearts & Minds Prepared

Young Friends General Meeting 18th - 20th October 2024

This is the second part of Documents in Advance for YFGM's October 2024

This document provides information on the items on our agenda for the weekend. It should be read in conjunction with part I of Documents in Advance, which covers information & practicalities about the weekend.

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Introduction

Each YFGM is a mixture, a blend of the perspectives, passions, and thoughts that each person brings. It's a mix of different types of activities - some structured, some more free-form. This document contains information that will help you come to the weekend's sessions with, in the words of Advices & Queries, 'heart and mind prepared'. There are

descriptions of the items we expect to consider as a community this weekend.

Nominations

Our nominations committee will be working all weekend to find people willing and able to take on certain roles, and to discern which names are the right ones at this time.

Roles we are looking to appoint to this YFGM are:

- Logistics committee
- Eldership committee
- Nominations committee
- Planning Weekend Newcomer
- Finance Trustee
- Treasurer
- Media Officer

Details of the nominations process and how to make suggestions can be found in docs in advance part I and on the YFGM website, and will be given in the intro to nominations.

To submit suggestions: <https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/documents-forms/nominations>

Sessions

Future of British Quakerism session (Saturday, 14:30-16:30)

The Future of British Quakerism conference is happening at the same time as YFGM with representatives from Area Meetings and YFGM present online and in person. The gathering is exploring questions such as: Where is British Quakerism heading?; What do the latest survey results show?; and What does it mean to be a Quaker in Britain today? This parallel session at YFGM, facilitated by Bridget Holtom (Engagement and Faith in Action Lead for Quakers in Britain and Young Adult Friend from Sheffield and Balby AM), will offer an opportunity for us as young adult Quakers to feed into the plenary which will be given by Rhianon Grant that very evening. In our 2 hour session, we will explore the following questions:

1. A Confident Quaker Voice

How well are we sharing the Quaker Way at present and what helps us to be confident in that process? Where and how do we feel led to share the Quaker way in future?

2. Equality, Diversity and Inclusion - Justice and Welcome

How well do we include people with different backgrounds, experiences, and needs at present? How are we being led to create a more fully just and equitable community in future?

3. Membership, Commitment and Belonging

What do we ask of people who are part of the Quaker community at present? What do we feel led to ask of, and offer to, people who will be part of the Quaker community in future?

4. Resource - Maintaining Our Community

What time, energy, and material resources are being used at present to maintain and nurture our worshipping communities? What will be needed in future and how are we led to ensure this is available?

5. Theology - Our Religious Perspectives

What do we know at present about the Reality we encounter in meeting for worship? What do we feel led to do in order to come closer to the Truth in future?

It will be an interactive and participatory session, with various options and ways to contribute (written, verbal, small groups etc). If you can make time to reflect on these questions in advance, please consider what they mean for you personally and for the wider young adult community, not just those present or who take part in YFGM. If you won't be able to participate in this session, have any concerns or questions, please email bridgeth@quaker.org.uk

Meeting for Worship for Business

Introductory business: Saturday, 10:30-11:30

Session 1 (including reports): Saturday, 17:00-18:30

Session 2: Sunday, 13:15-14:45

In our business sessions, we make decisions together as a community about things we care about, using the Quaker business method which is rooted in Quaker worship.

We'll start on Saturday morning with an introduction to how Quaker business method works, along with some shorter items of business.

We will share what items will be discerned in each business session at the weekend, both verbally and on a written agenda, but this may change at short notice so listen out for announcements. Each session is open to everybody, although it is helpful for discernment if you can be present for the whole of an agenda item rather than coming and going part-way through. For some items, it will be very helpful to have read the available information in advance - which is what this document is for! If you have questions about any item, please contact the clerks, elders, or the person presenting the item.

Reports

In this session we will hear reports from members of the YFGM community, including:

- Trustee report
- Switchboard report
- World Plenary report
- Meeting for Sufferings report
- Report from our Planning Weekend Newcomers

Intro to Nominations (Noms)

This item will introduce and explain the Quaker Nominations process (often called Noms for short) and the roles we're trying to appoint this weekend.

Assistant Treasurer

In this item we will hear and discern on a proposal to create the role of Assistant Treasurer, who would sit on the Finance Committee alongside our Treasurer, Finance Trustee, and Fundraiser. There is a proposed role description which is available at [this link](#), largely taken from the existing Treasurer role and edited to reflect that it would be a supporting role.

This proposal has come about because Finance is a small committee with a large number of responsibilities, which can be difficult for role-holders and daunting for those considering the roles. The hope is that the creation of an Assistant Treasurer role to support the Treasurer in their responsibilities would help to ease this by allowing the Treasurer's work to

be shared more flexibly between two people, as well as increasing the capacity of the Finance Committee as a whole for shared responsibilities.

If this role is created, we also propose to amend the existing Finance role descriptions accordingly. Firstly, in any place where all the current Finance roles are listed, to include Assistant Treasurer for consistency; secondly, to amend the Treasurer role to clarify that responsibility for the shared financial tasks ultimately lies with them as the Assistant Treasurer's role supports theirs.

Contact: Izzy Hepburn and Will Reed

Accounts

Our accounts were approved in May YFGM. Since then we have been working with an Independent Examiner to ensure that they are up to standard for when the Trustees submit them to the Charity commission at the end of October. A report will be presented at this YFGM on what has happened since.

The accounts are not available at this time due to some final queries with the Examiner. Once ready they will be sent separately.

Crash space @ BYM

We would like to make it easier and cheaper for Young Adult Friends to engage with BYM 2025 by providing a space to stay on a nearby Meeting House floor. To progress with this aim we bring a business item to establish:

Are we willing to have this as a YFGM thing?

Are we willing to spend the necessary money to organise it (Donation to the meeting house, organisation cost, cost of food if we provide breakfast)?

For more information of what we would offer and what YFGM would need to do please see [this document](#).

Nominations (Noms) returns

In this business item we receive nominations brought by our nominations committee from their work this weekend, and discern whether to make the suggested appointments.

Noms to Noms

This business item is part of our nominations work, in which we do our own nominations discernment aiming to appoint Friends to our nominations committee.

Although the nominations committee don't bring nominations for these roles, you can suggest yourself or others using the online nominations form or the noms box at the weekend, or during the beginning of this session.

Special Interest Groups

Special interest groups (SIGs) are smaller sessions running in parallel in different spaces. We usually have quite a variety, with a mixture of discussion-based, movement-based, and creative sessions and different topics to choose from.

At this YFGM we have 2 SIG slots, which will each contain a selection of SIGs.

The SIG sheet is available at [this link](#), it is a live document so may change in the lead up to (and during) the event.

Mouths Prepared

This is for the purpose of preparing you for the meals arranged by our lovely catering coordinator volunteers. All meals are vegan/vegetarian suitable.

The Menu for YFGM is composed of the following:

Friday Evening - Pasta bolognese with garlic bread

Saturday Lunch - Carrot & coriander soup with croutons & salad

Saturday Evening - Sausage casserole & mash

Sunday Lunch - Jacket potatoes, salad & leftovers