

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN

Documents in Advance part II

Hearts & Minds Prepared

Young Friends General Meeting 2nd -5th May 2025

This is the second part of Documents in Advance for YFGM's May 2025 Gathering.

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.

Table of Contents

Hearts & Minds Prepared	1
Introduction	1
Nominations	2
Sessions	2
Meeting for Worship for Business	3
Reports:	4
Minute of Support for Community Support Centre, DRC:	4
Accounts:	5
Nominations (Noms) returns:	6
Noms to Noms:	6
Special Interest Groups	6
Mouths Prepared	6

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
- Pastoral committee
- Nominations committee
- Planning Weekend Newcomer
- Trustee
- Co-Clerk

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

Bristol Reparations Group (Saturday, 17.00-18.00): Quaker Involvement in the Transatlantic Slave Trade:

- Bristol Quakers set up the Bristol Quakers Reparations Group in 2023 and have recently published a leaflet about local Quakers' involvement in transatlantic slavery. Members of this group will facilitate a session of learning and discussion on our Quaker collective commitment to reparations (Britain Yearly Meeting 2022, minute 33).

Entertainments (Ents)

With this being a long weekend, we will have two sets of entertainments (which we refer to as 'ents').

Saturday night ents will be a ceilidh! No level of experience needed, just bring yourself and a willingness to learn and get involved. If you are interested in playing in the band for the ceilidh, please check out the discord in the "May YFGM General" channel as there will be a thread to discuss sheet music, instruments people are bringing, etc. If you cannot

access discord, but are interested in being involved in the ceilidh, please do pop us an email on pastoral@youngfriends.org.uk.

Alternative Saturday night ents will be collaging - we will provide some magazines and quotes as starting points, but please do bring along anything you would like to use.

Sunday night ents will be a little bit more laid back, with a quiz running alongside a "BYOC" (Bring Your Own Crafts) session. We will also be having a book swap on the Sunday, so if you have any books you would like to give to a new home, or if you're looking for something new to read, please do come along!

Meeting for Worship for Business

Introductory business: Saturday, 10:15 - 11:30

- Intro to Quaker Business Method (QBM)
- Minute of support for Community Support Centre, DRC
- Planning weekend newcomer report

Session 2: Saturday, 14:00 - 15:30

- Response to arrests at Westminster Meeting House
- Accounts

Session 3: Sunday, 17:00 - 18:30

- Mental Wellbeing Concern
- Reports from: switchboard, trustees, Canadian Young Adult Friends Gathering

Session 4: Monday, 10:15 - 11:30

- Meeting for Sufferings report
- Noms to noms

Session 5: Monday, 11:45 - 12:30

- Nominations returns

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 the 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 these items we will hear reports from members of the YFGM community, including:

- Report from our Planning Weekend Newcomers (Session 1)
- Trustees Report (Session 3)
- Switchboard Report (Session 3)
- Report from Canadian Young Adult Friends Gathering (Session 3)
- Report from Meeting for Sufferings (Session 4)

Minute of Support for Community Support Centre, DRC:

The Community Support Centre is a charity in the Democratic Republic of Congo set up by and led by a Quaker (Olo Bernoulli Byolenganya), to help people (especially women and children) who have been affected by the ongoing conflicts and genocide in the country. For them to be eligible for BYM charitable grants, they need a supporting minute from a UK Quaker body - YFGM has been asked to be that body. A document can be found [here](#) outlining their commitment to Quaker values and how their work benefits their community.

Response to arrests at Westminster Meeting House:

On Thursday 27th March 2025, six people were arrested in Westminster Meeting House, London. More information on the incident can be found [here](#). Members of YFGM have written a statement in response to this, which you can find [here](#). This business item is to present the statement to the General Meeting and ask if the meeting wants to adopt it as a

statement of the General Meeting rather than a statement by some members of YFGM.

Accounts:

In this session YFGM will be asked to consider the 2024 accounts for approval pending independent examination. The current draft spreadsheet can be found using the following link:

📄 [YFGM Accounts 2024 - DRAFT](#) (any sections highlighted in blue are provisional and still being revised by the finance committee).

Should Friends have any questions or comments regarding the 2024 accounts please contact a member of the finance committee by emailing us (at finance@youngfriends.org.uk) or by sending us a message on Discord.

Mental Wellbeing Concern:

- In October 2014 (Minute 2014.18), YFGM adopted Mental Wellbeing as a going Concern: 'As young Friends we can lead by example, and feel the time is right to stand up and say to the world – 'this is important.' We recognise that YFGM can nourish the mental wellbeing of all its members and feel a duty to further this within YFGM and in the outside world.'
- In February 2015 a working group was established 'to consider this and bring future ideas to YFGM'.
- In February 2019 (Minute 2019.6), YFGM agreed to lay down the working group: '...perhaps it is actually that the wider community is carrying on without a specific role for the working group to fulfil.', and recognised that 'There is a sense that the feeling that we need to address mental wellbeing has become embedded in the community'.
- In this minute, YFGM also committed to 'check on the life of the Concern once the restructuring [of our nominated roles] is complete'. In October 2019 (Minute 2019.10.9), YFGM formally laid down the working group, and committed to 'checking on the life of the concern in late 2020'. Needless to say, with other events taking up much of 2020, this did not happen.

It is felt by YFGMers that the time is right to check on the life of this concern. Given that there has been no working group and no minuted action with regard to the Mental Wellbeing concern for five years, we are invited to consider whether the concern should be formally laid down. Alongside this weekend's Spirituality Session on concerns, this gives an

opportunity for the community to begin to look forwards and outwards, and to consider how we might follow the Guide in our hearts to action in the wider world in the future.

Friends are strongly encouraged to attend our Spirituality Session (Saturday, 14.00 - 15.30). For more detail on the history of this concern, or concerns in general, Friends are invited to read the minutes referenced (available on the YFGM website), or to contact Elders.

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 volunteer. All meals are vegan/vegetarian suitable.

The Menu for YFGM is composed of the following:

Friday Evening:	Mediterranean Veg with couscous/rice
Saturday Lunch:	Butternut squash soup spiced but not spicy
Saturday Evening:	Pasta with basil and garlic pesto
Sunday Lunch:	Sandwiches with fillings
Sunday Evening:	Lentil curry and rice + pulse free curry
Monday Lunch:	Baked potatoes with beans