

Documents in Advance Part I



Information & Practicalities

This information & practicalities document provides information about the YFGM's October gathering, which will be held:

on:	17th - 19th October 2025
at:	Liverpool Quaker Meeting House

Table of Contents

Expenses	3
Before YFGM:	3
The Meeting House	4
Arrivals	5
Newcomers	5
Accessibility	5
What do I need to bring?	6
During YFGM:	6
Sleeping Arrangements	6
Bag rooms	6
Cooking, cleaning & sharing a space	7
Eating together	7
Nominations	8
Explanation of Sessions	12
Meeting for Worship	12
Epilogue	12
Meeting for Worship for Business	12
Special Interest Groups (SIGs)	13
Entertainments (Ents)	14

Expenses

YFGM covers the costs of out-of-pocket expenses incurred in attending YFGM for role-holders and for newcomers. There is also an access fund for those who need to sleep off-site. You can find further information on this here:

<https://yfgm.quaker.org.uk/claim-expenses/>

If you have any questions about the access fund, please contact pastoral@youngfriends.org.uk. If you have any other expenses questions, please contact finance@youngfriends.org.uk.

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 pastoral@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.

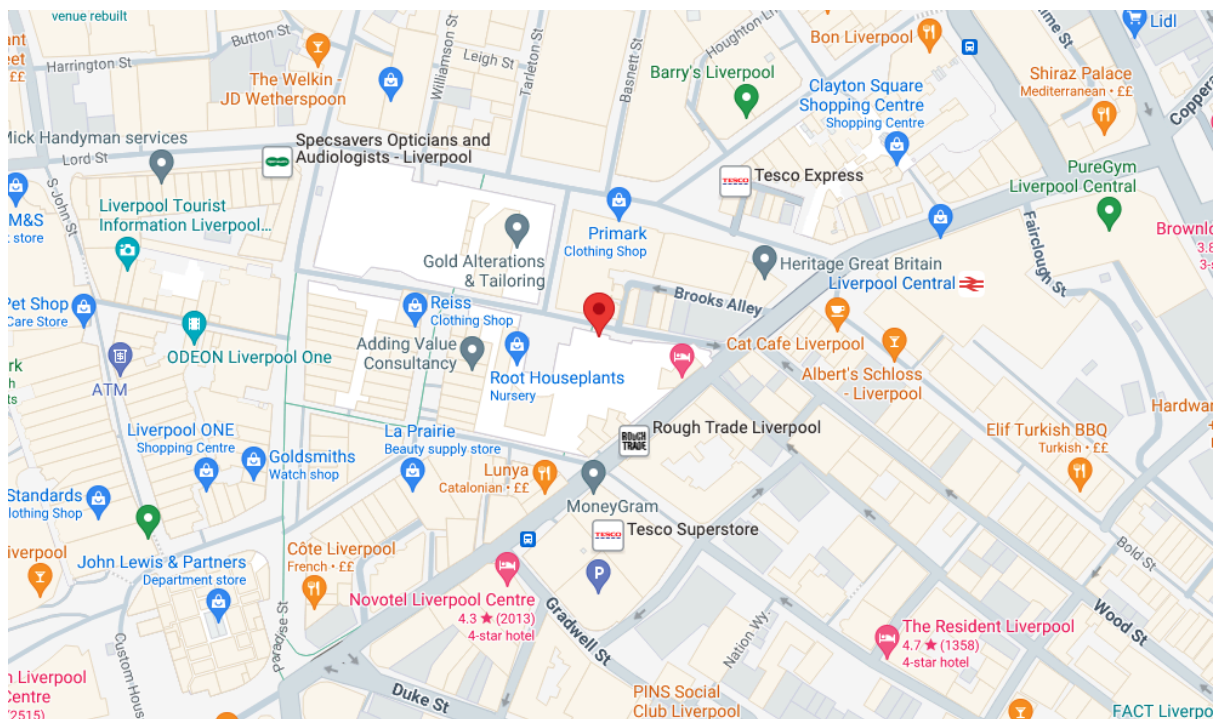
The nearest train stations are Liverpool Central, 150m from the Meeting House (approximately a 2 minute walk), and Liverpool Lime Street, 500m from the Meeting House.

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](https://www.q-park.co.uk). 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 8:00pm, 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), please do join our Discord server for YFGM <https://discord.gg/JqbuB7uEcW>. Within this, you can ask any questions in the 'info for newcomers' channel, as well as talk to members of our Pastoral committee. If you would like to speak to Pastoral privately, you can email pastoral@youngfriends.org.uk.

During the weekend, there will be specific newcomers' sessions, facilitated by Pastoral. These are optional sessions that you can come along to, to help get to know each other and ask 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 pastoral@youngfriends.org.uk.

At Liverpool Meeting House there is lift access to all floors and there are accessible toilets available. There is no Changing Places toilet in the meeting house - the closest is in the Liverpool One shopping centre.

There will be a quiet room available throughout the weekend during daytime and evening periods.

What do I need to bring?

A weekend's worth of clothes, toiletries, medication, and any other personal items you need. If sleeping in the Meeting House, bring 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, accessible bathroom), there are plenty of hotels in Liverpool including a nearby Premier Inn (City Centre).

Safeguarding Information

We are committed to keeping everyone safe at YFGM. We have a designated safeguarding lead and deputy lead to ensure that this happens. They will make themselves known to you during the welcome session, and we would encourage you to speak to them if you have any concerns during the weekend.

If you are unsure if your concern falls under safeguarding, but you are still worried about something, please speak to any member of the Pastoral committee, and they will be able to help.

Sometimes, we have young children coming to YFGM with their parents. We ask that you refrain from taking photographs of any children, and that you check in the background of any photographs you are taking, if there is a child present. If you have any questions or concerns about this, please speak to the safeguarding lead, or email safeguarding@yfgm.org.uk.

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.

At YFGM 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 (Noms)

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.

During the weekend, YFGM nominations committee will approach people who have been suggested at the event or on the form on our website, 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 (a process called noms to noms). 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 (usually 3 people are appointed).
- **Pastoral Committee:** Be on hand to facilitate newcomers' sessions and social spaces, support YFGMers to access YFGM and support the wellbeing of all YFGMers (as a committee of 5-6 people).
- **Elders Committee:** Care for the spiritual health of YFGM; facilitate worship, meeting for worship for business, and spirituality sessions; and facilitate threshing sessions at planning weekend (as a committee of 5-6 people).
- **Nominations Committee:** meets during YFGM weekends to discern on the names for appointments to all the other roles and committees (as a committee of 7 people). Between YFGMs, Nominations keeps track of who's

on which committees, and makes sure role descriptions and the like are all up to date.

- **Representative to Quaker Rainbow:** Communicate with both YFGM and Quaker Rainbow (the Quaker LGBT group), ensure that YFGMers' voices are heard, and potentially be part of the Quaker Rainbow committee.

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 - 20:00	Evening mealtime, including:
	<i>Newcomers' welcome session (19:30 - 20:00)</i>
20:00 - 20:30	Introduction & welcome session
20:30 - 20:45	Break
20:45 - 21:45	Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
21:45 - 22:15	Epilogue (evening worship)
22:15 -	Unscheduled social time
00:00	Meeting House doors locked

Saturday

08:15 - 09:15	Breakfast, including:
	<i>Newcomers' breakfast (08:15-09:15)</i>
09:15 - 09:45	Opening Worship
09:45 - 10:00	Break
10:00 - 11:00	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Introduction to Quaker Business Method</i>
	<i>Updating our Constitution (re. Age Limit)</i>
	<i>Planning Weekend Newcomers' Report</i>
11:00 - 11:30	Break

11:30 - 12:30	Special Interest Groups (SIGs)
12:30 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 15:00	Worship Sharing: Do we have a Concern?
15:00 - 15:30	Break
15:30 - 16:30	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Do we have a Concern?</i>
16:30 - 17:00	Break
17:00 - 18:00	Concern: Where do we go from here?
18:00 - 19:30	Evening mealtime, including:
	<i>Big Notices! (19:00-19:15)</i>
19:30 - 21:45	Entertainments (Ents)
21:45 - 22:15	Epilogue
22:15 -	Unscheduled social time
00:00	Meeting House doors locked

Sunday

08:00 - 09:00	Breakfast
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 / Break
12:00 - 13:30	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Approving the Accounts for 2024</i>
	<i>2026 Budget</i>

	<i>Trustees Annual Report</i>
13:00 - 14:00	Lunch
14:00 - 14:30	Final Clean
14:30 - 15:30	Meeting for Worship for Business, including:
	<i>Noms Returns</i>
	<i>Noms to Noms</i>
15:30 - 16:00	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. Our worship will include worshipping with local Friends on Sunday.

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

YFGM, like other Quaker groups, makes decisions in Meetings for Worship for Business. As the name suggests, these are Meetings for Worship with the specific task of considering a question (or more likely several questions in turn) put before it. Rather than a debate or a discussion, we listen for leadings of the Spirit and contribute in ministry in order to discern an answer. We all hold a collective responsibility for the discernment that happens in these sessions and the decisions that result, whether or not we attend them (but we really encourage you to!). In our business meetings we might be looking at how our community functions - appointing people to roles within YFGM, changing what those roles are, agreeing to put money or energy towards new activities - or at wider things, such as our response to world events. Details of the specific items for this YFGM will be available in documents in advance part II.

You can read about the business process we use on the YFGM website at yfgm.quaker.org.uk/about/explainers/quaker-business-method/, which includes some YFGM-specific practicalities so we encourage you to look at this even if you've had experience with other Meetings. We also ask that you attend our first business session on Saturday at 10.00, in which Elders will introduce how the Quaker business method works at YFGM. We will aim to start each business session on time with 5 minutes of worship, followed by an opportunity to come in before the item starts. We won't let people enter the Meeting during a business item, however there will be a brief moment between items for people to come in.

Worship sharing

Worship sharing is another way of worshiping with something specific in mind. There will be a stimulus such as a piece of prepared ministry and / or questions on a topic which everyone is then free to give ministry on. Like meeting for worship and meeting for worship for business, it is grounded in silence.

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! 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. Past Ents have included quizzes, ceilidhs, playing Taskmaster, crafts and film nights.

Big Notices!

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

If you have a Big Notice to share with everyone, get in touch with the Clerks 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.

Thanks for Reading!

If you thought 14 pages was a lot of information, there's even more coming your way...

Please look out for Documents in Advance II, which will give more detail on business items, the provisional menu and more.

We look forward to seeing you in Liverpool!