

Central England, Worcestershire and Shropshire, Staffordshire, Gloucestershire.

I hope you've all enjoyed the summer. Our adventures have taken us to the Othona Community on the Essex coast, Edinburgh, Pembrokeshire and Manchester. It was lovely to swim in the sea, go for bike rides and walks and catch up with friends and family. Now we're all back home in Birmingham, and enjoying the slightly cooler weather.

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Hilary Topp

How can we welcome Young Adult Quakers?

In each newsletter I try to offer some ideas in response to common questions or issues. This time it's 'How can we Support Young Adult Quakers?'. It's the start of the university term, and so it seems like a good time to mention this, but it's really important to remember that most young adults are not students (and that a lot of students are not young adults!).

I was reading this [blog post](#) this morning. Alongside increased numbers of families looking to find a home in a Quaker community, Craig also reminds us about young adults looking for, and sometimes finding, Quakers. Perhaps you've had new attenders? Or you would like to? Here's a few brief thoughts on things you might be able to do to welcome and support young adults:

- How will you welcome people who are new to Quakers, and how will they find out more about Quakers? Think about how you introduce the Meeting for Worship, whether you might want to have afterword/not quite ministry time at the end. Have a stock of Advices and Queries to give away. What opportunities are there for the whole community to learn more about the Quaker way, and get to know each other on a deeper level? Young adults, like everyone else, are looking for a welcoming spiritual community where they can find connection and meaning. They will stay if they find that, and they will probably leave if they don't.
- Could you ask your Area Meeting, or a group of local meetings to start a regular Young Adult Quakers group? It could just be a social event after an existing Sunday or mid-week meeting. If you already have some young adult Friends connected to your AM/LM, ask them what would work for them. You might want to have a support group, at least initially, who can do things like book a room, set up a WhatsApp group, cook dinner, think about publicity. A lot of YAQ groups meet monthly, often on a weekday evening, but there's no rule about this.
- Tell young adults about [Young Friends General Meeting](#). YFGM describe themselves as being for Quakers and the Quaker Curious. They run three weekend events a year, as well as other social events. There's a link to sign up to the newsletter or join the Discord channel on their website.
- There is also a national Young Adult Quakers WhatsApp community, and any local groups can ask to join that.
- There's a list of YAQ groups at [Young Adult Quaker Groups | Quakers in Britain](#). If there is already a group near to you, ask them if there's anything you can do to help. Email youngadults@quaker.org.uk to get your group added to the list.
- Subscribe to Rising Up. This newsletter is made for and by young adults to share news, opportunities and questions related to Quakerism in the UK. We send out three issues per year. [Sign up here](#).
- Let people know about what you can offer – whether that's a group, or a regular meet-up. Make sure there is information on your website, in your listing on [Find a Quaker Meeting](#), and on other listings like the [Student Christian Movement](#) and [Inclusive Church](#). Use social media, send flyers to university chaplains, send a digital flyer to your local meeting clerks, share it in WhatsApp groups, get it into local events listings if you can.
- For support with setting up a group you can email youngadults@quaker.org.uk, and/or get in touch with me.

Role Holder Support Sessions

These one-hour sessions, held on Zoom, are a space to raise concerns, share experience and find solutions. Click on the links below to register for the sessions.

Local Meeting Clerks	Monday 22nd September
Trustees	Wednesday 24th September
Treasurers	Wednesday 15th October
Eldership and Pastoral Care	Thursday 25th September
Nominations	Thursday 16th October
Safeguarding	Thursday 6 November

Events and resources

Nationally there are lots of online events listed on the Quakers in Britain website [here](#), including Outreach Network sessions, Faith in Action drop-in, Quaker Parent Worship, Online Children's Meeting, 'What is the Quaker Way?' sessions for newcomers. [Woodbrooke courses for Quaker role holders](#)

Youth, Children and Families Support Network

Join us to share ideas about supporting Youth, Children and Families to be a thriving part of your Meeting.

Free Online

Visit www.quaker.org.uk/events for more details.

Email any questions to cypadmin@quaker.org.uk

Dates and Times:

- Thu 18 September 7:30pm
- Thu 16 October 11am
- Wed 26 November 7:30pm
- Wed 17 December 11am
- Sunday 18 January 6pm

