

Quakers in London

News Sheet 4

January 2026

London-wide Meeting for Worship

Over 100 friends gathered online and in the Large Meeting Room at Friends House for a London-wide Meeting for Worship on January 11th. In addition to a number of individuals, three local meetings took part on Zoom. A problem with the sound at the beginning was quietly and efficiently investigated and solved. Elders came from the new Eldership and Pastoral Care committee. Doorkeepers were sourced from North West London AM. Worship was held from 10.30 to 12.00 to allow local meetings to join at their usual time. Children's meeting was held at the same time. This was followed by tea and coffee and a well organised shared lunch with enough for all. It was a successful occasion helped by a strong commitment from members of the Arrangements Group and Friends House staff.

Joint London Area Meeting for Business

Friends had the option of being present for either the morning or afternoon, or all day. Again, over 100 were at the Meeting for Worship for Business in the afternoon. First on the agenda was a Nominations report which included encouragement to use the Quakers in London Offer of Service Form. Names for three co-clerks and an Arrangements Committee for the area meeting were then discerned and people appointed. The Nominations Committee are mindful of the need to create committees with a diverse blend of ages, geography, etc.

A joyful account of Growing South (already reported in QiL News Sheet 3) was followed by a clear presentation on the extensive outreach work undertaken by friends in Kingston and Wandsworth Area Meeting. This work requires energy, enthusiasm and a willingness to experiment. One thing that came to light in the course of doing it was the close link between outreach and inreach. The more you do on outreach, the better your inreach gets, and the stronger your community becomes. Enquiries and attendance have both increased. A generous budget and innovative thinking have resulted in quality outreach materials suited to southwest London.

From the London Development Group we received a revised timeline. From 7th March, JLAM will begin to take membership admissions, most terminations and transfers, and anything needed from prison chaplains. It will appoint Registering Officers (probably from among the current roleholders).

Finally, we heard a challenging and inspiring presentation on 'building our community' from Josh Selfe. He illustrated it with photos supplied by local meetings showing a wide variety of concerns and activities. We have been building our community in three ways: by deepening our relationships, by attracting new members, and by transforming the community at large. Could a thousand Quakers change the face of London? Yes, they could make a good start – we were part of a vibrant, exciting, community. Josh thought the best days of Quakerism were yet to come.

Joint London Area Meeting dates

These dates have been selected to fit around other events in the Quaker calendar. Yearly Meeting is at Friends House and online from 1st to 4th May. Meeting for Sufferings will then be laid down and Continuing Yearly Meeting will be held on single days – 18th July in Manchester and 21st November at Friends House.

The Sunday JLAM dates in October and December may clash with local business meetings. Local Meetings may be able to adjust the dates of their business meetings in the light of this calendar.

March 7 Saturday	Friends House (Change of Venue)
June 13 Saturday	Westminster
September 12 Saturday	Wanstead
October 11 Sunday	Friends House
December 13 Sunday	Friends House

These are all-day meetings, with mornings spent either in learning or worship, and with business taking place in the afternoon.

For further information, talk to Friends in your local and area meetings!

Issued by the London Development Group.