Quakers in London

News Sheet 14 November 2026

Support for Local Meetings

Meetings of all sizes can face the same problems. Some find they change rapidly from managing well to not managing well, depending on their role-holders. There are also meetings which are not small in terms of attendance, but have a very small number of experienced Quakers and a lot of newcomers.

On **Thursday December 3rd**, from 7.30 to 8.30 pm, all interested friends are invited to an online meeting to discuss how our 33 local meetings can feel supported and connected to the area meeting. We will consider the following elements in the life of a Quaker meeting:

- Eldership, including right holding of meeting for worship
- Pastoral care
- Clerking and right ordering of business meetings
- Keeping the local meeting informed of papers and events
- Contact person(s) required by Quakers in London Area Meeting (e.g. premises committee, safeguarding, GDPR and data protection, nominations, donations, finance)
- Distribution of helpful contact details to role holders and friends generally
- Social and learning opportunities
- Conflict and difficulties among people in the meeting.

Our aim is not to hear about issues in detail but to use them as examples to see if we can create a 'road map' of where local meetings should turn when they identify a problem.

For the link, see the event listing on the Quill website. Quaker faith and practice 4.02 is relevant.

Area Meeting and Families Together Day

The next Joint London Area Meeting, combined with a Families Together Day, is on Sunday **December 13th** from 10.30 to 4.30 at **Friends House**, NW1 2AE. During it we would like to consider the theme of ‘loving one another in a time of change’.

From 11.00 to 12.00 there will be an **all-age meeting for worship** in the Large Meeting Room. After a bring and share lunch, there will be a meeting for business from 1.30 to 4.30, with parallel activities for families. Parents can choose to join either of these.

Everyone regardless of age is welcome to take part in some or all of the day, at Friends House or online.



Monthly London-wide Meetings for Worship

The next monthly London-wide meeting for worship is on Sunday **December 20th** at **Esher**. Esher Quakers meet at the Adult Education Centre, 19 Esher Green KT10 8AA. As of December their meeting starts at 10.00 a.m.

After that the first London-wide meeting for worship of 2027 will be at **Finchley** on **January 17th**.

Learning about Benjamin Lay

After being disowned by Quaker meetings in London and Colchester for what they saw as disruptive behaviour, Benjamin Lay went to Barbados, where he became unpopular by opposing slavery. After moving to Pennsylvania he took to living in a cave. Once again he antagonised the Quakers, this time by publishing his views in their name without prior approval. He died in 1759.

In 2027 the first **area meeting of Quakers in London** will be at Friends House on **Sunday January 10th**. The morning worship will include activities linked to Benjamin Lay.

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