

An invite to join an event for young Quakers

Junior Yearly Meeting 2018

Evening of Friday 4 to late afternoon of Monday 7 May 2018

At Lee Valley Youth Hostel



My spirituality has developed a lot, to getting closer to finding out what I believe.

Junior Yearly Meeting (JYM) is the annual event for Quakers aged 15-18 (born between 1.9.99 and 31.8.02, inclusive). This year it happens at the same time as Britain Yearly Meeting (the decision making body of our organisation).

We are inviting visitors from other organisations and experiences to come and join with us. As well as being a “Peace Church”, Quaker beliefs and traditions are distinctive from other denominations.

We’ve provided information about this overleaf. We welcome you to come and learn more about yourself with us and share in exploring the **theme:**

Quaker Faith in Practice

What are our beliefs and how can we express them?



JYM 2018 Arrangements Committee

As a youth event, JYM is planned and facilitated by six young people appointed by their peers who agree the theme that links to issues being considered by Britain Yearly Meeting (where Quakers in Britain make key decisions each year). This group also creates a programme for the event.

JYM is a large event, so in order to get to know people you'll be part of a smaller group facilitated by a young person who will organise activities and discussion. This will become a close-knit unit of support and fun throughout the event.

Silence with others really helps you connect with the rest of the people in the room, the community is more loving and accepting than any other I've known.

JYM includes **social events** – which are times to let off steam and should be stimulating with something for everyone. They provide an opportunity to meet new people and everyone is encouraged to mix with one another to help create an inclusive community, both in structured sessions and in free time.

Worship is central to the JYM community; Quaker worship is grounded in a collective silence, rather than worship songs, but vocal ministry is welcomed.

The group of young people (Arrangements Committee) who are the central to the planning for the event would like to extend a warm invitation to this year's event.

In peace and Friendship,



Arjun
Clerks

Dany

Ash
Peer Facilitators

Gruff

Issy

Oliver

Tim

Junior Yearly Meeting Arrangements Committee 2018

Coming to JYM: Speak with your organisation's youth officer (or equivalent), to confirm that they will support your attendance at this event.

1. To come to JYM, your date of birth should be between 1.9.99 and 31.8.02.
2. You need to let us know you are coming too, please fill out the JYM invited places form <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/jym-2018-invite/>
3. If you would like to further information about JYM please contact:
Cat Waithaka (Youth Participation Officer) at catw@quakers.org.uk or 020 8663 1011.
4. You will receive a reply once we have received your form, at the same time your parent/guardian will be sent a more detailed consent and information form to return.



Quaker beliefs Quakers share a way of life rather than a fixed set of beliefs. The Quaker way provides people with guidance for their lives and the freedom to think with an open agenda rather than a set of rules to follow.

Quaker worship Quakers come together to worship in expectant silence and seek to receive inspiration and communicate with God. The stillness gives space and time to reflect and think. It is a chance to leave the busy world behind.



Quakers and God Quakers believe that people experience God in different ways. Quakers believe that everyone can have a relationship with God. They seek to experience God within themselves, in their relationships with others and in the world around them. An important Quaker belief is 'that of God in everyone', this means that everyone is special, unique, and that God exists in each of us. Some Quakers talk about this as being an 'inner light' in each person.

Quakers and Christianity Quaker ideas and practices have their origins in Christianity but Quakers also find inspiration and value in the teachings of other faiths. People come to Quakers from other faiths and from no faith background at all; you don't need to be a Christian to get something from Quaker worship and beliefs.



Quaker values Quakers think that peace, equality, truth and simplicity are important ideals to work towards. Quakers call these testimonies. They are guidelines that help you live your religion throughout your life rather than just on a Sunday. They encourage Quakers to put their faith into action by working and campaigning locally and around the world, particularly for social justice, to resolve conflict and to work for peace.

Quakers and Peace Stemming from Quakers' challenge to answer 'that of God' in every person, Quakers are committed to working for peace and justice through nonviolent social change. Quakers seek to wage peace at all levels of society, from teaching mediation to school children to being active in disarmament.

