



IRELAND YEARLY MEETING 2025

**Two (2) Special Interest Groups, online
Monday 21st and Wednesday 23rd April, 19:30 – 21:00**

Friday 25th – Sunday 27th April 2025
Friends School Lisburn, 6 Magheralave Road, Lisburn BT28 3BH,
Northern Ireland: IYM sessions (blended – in-person and online)

A LEARNING COMMUNITY

**“If you hold to my teaching, you are really my
disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth
will set you free” John 8:31-32**

Yearly Meeting Office – Quaker House Dublin
Phone: 01 – 499 8003 Email: office@quakers.ie Web: www.quakers.ie

All sessions of Yearly Meeting are open to all Members; with rare exceptions, all are also open to Attendees. **All sessions will be blended unless indicated otherwise.**

IYM Registration Link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/D6K2FVC>
(*You will automatically be registered for the Public Lecture at the same time*)

Friday 25th April

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| 9.30am – 10.45am | Registration |
| 10.00am – 10.45am | Coffee and Tea in School Staff Room |
| 11.00am – 12.45pm | Session 1 Opening Worship Welcome and introduction of guests Appointments of Friends to report on Yearly Meeting, and other appointments Treasurer's Report and Acceptance of Accounts Reports received from YMC and other governance issues |
| 12.45pm – 2.00pm | Lunch in School Dining Hall (<i>beside main building</i>) |
| 2.00pm – 3.30pm | Session 2 – LEARNING WITH OUR SCHOOLS Quaker Schools – how do Quakers support our schools Discussion with representatives of Friends' School Lisburn, Newtown School Waterford and Drogheda Grammar School Stephen Moore, Friends' School Lisburn Keith Lemon, Newtown School Waterford Neville Louden, Newtown School Waterford Dawn-Marie Rafferty, Drogheda Grammar School |
| 3.30pm – 4.00pm | Coffee and Tea in Staff Room |
| 4.00pm – 5.30pm | Session 3 – LEARNING IN OUR MEETINGS How do we support local Meetings to thrive; Alison Tarpey-Black, Britain YM What can we learn from the experiences of other Quakers around the world? Emily Provance, New York YM Learning about Peace – report from FSL Peace Conference |
| 6.00pm – 7.00pm | Evening Meal in School Dining Hall (<i>beside main building</i>) |

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| 7.30pm – 9.00pm | Public Lecture by James Nelson <i>“Quakers, learning and education – using the future to rethink the present”</i> |
| 9pm | Tea and Coffee |
| 9.10pm – 9.30pm | Epilogue led by Young Friends |
| <u>Saturday 26th April</u> | |
| 8.30am – 9.30am | Worship Sharing (Facilitated by Rose Tobin) Bible Study (Facilitated by Charles B. Lamb) |
| 9.45am – 11.00am | Session 4 Meeting for Worship (at this time there will be A Meeting for Movement –Exploring Worship through movement, led by young Friends) Bloomfield Hospital governance – John McNeilly Supporting Conscientious Objectors – Mikheil Elizbarashvili, Georgia Worship Group Learning from Friends around the world - Michael Eccles, European and Middle Eastern Section, FWCC |
| 11.00am – 11.30am | Coffee and Tea in School Staff Room |
| 11.30am – 12.45pm | Session 5 LEARNING HOW TO LIVE OUT OUR FAITH Quaker Service – Shane Whelehan Irish Quaker Faith in Action – David Gamble Quaker Council of European Affairs – Loretta O’Brien Quaker United Nations Office – Sophie Naeye & Lindsey Fielder-Cook Exploration with Quaker organisations of how they are addressing the future, and what we need to do |
| 1.00pm – 2.00pm | Lunch in School Dining Hall (<i>beside main building</i>) |

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| 2.00pm – 3.30pm | <u>Session 6 - LEARNING WITH OUR YOUNG FRIENDS – “Dame Skittles Green Octopus and Petunia Emporium”</u> |
| | Session led by Young Friends |
| 3.30pm – 4.00pm | Coffee and Tea in School Staff Room |
| 4.00pm – 5.10pm | <u>Session 7 - LEARNING TOGETHER</u> Discussion groups in different rooms. |
| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. “Meet the Public Lecturer” – James Nelson (blended, Plenary Room) 2. Discussion with Alison Tarpey-Black on how to help Meetings flourish (offline) 3. Jenny Haughton – A Quaker experience of volunteering in the West Bank. (offline) |
| 5.20pm – 5.40pm | Feedback from discussion groups |
| 6.00pm – 7.00pm | Evening Meal in School Dining Hall (<i>beside main building</i>) |
| 7.30pm | Reading of draft Epistle |
| 7.45pm – 9.00pm | Social Evening |
| 9.10pm – 9.30pm | Epilogue led by Caro Kelly |
| <u>Sunday 27th April</u> | |
| 8.30am – 9.30am | Worship Sharing (Facilitated by Bryan Burke) Bible Study (Facilitated by Martin Mail) |
| 9.45am – 10.45am | <u>Session 8</u> Business session: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision of Book of Organisation and Christian Discipline • IYM Sustainability Policy |
| 11am – 12noon | Meeting for Worship |

12.15pm – 1.00pm

Session 9

Reading of Epistle

Discussion on issues to be explored at Learning Day in autumn

1.15pm – 2.00pm

Lunch in School Dining Hall (beside main building)

2.00pm onwards

Departures

All sessions of Yearly Meeting are open to all Members; with rare exceptions, all are also open to Attendees. **Attendees should inform their Meeting Clerks of their wish to attend IYM and ask their Clerks to forward their names to IYMClerk@quakers.ie**

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (*all SIGs are online; same Zoom link as for other sessions of IYM*).

Please note: There will only be two (2) evening SIGs this year. They will take place on Easter Monday and the Wednesday evening prior to IYM.

1. Monday, 21 April 2025, 19:30 – 21:00 (GMT)

Dorothée P-D – content - Co-creating a Utopian Quaker school

This is an invitation to Friends for a utopian thinking process aimed at co-creating an ideal Quaker School. Utopian thinking fosters critical analysis of what exists, creativity, and forward thinking regarding what could be.

During the session, Friends will be invited to design, in small groups, an ideal school grounded in Quaker testimonies, share their vision with the wider group, and draw insights to help bridge the gaps between reality and a potential desired future for Quaker education.

2. Wednesday, 23 April, 19:30 – 21:00 (GMT)

Patricia Gardiner - 'As membership of the Society of Friends dwindles ever further, is it possible to reconcile the culture of Irish Friends, and commitment to silent worship, with the possibility of developing an outward mission for growth.'

This SIG will look at other Meetings around the world to explore how different Meetings attract new attenders/Members, and discuss the opportunities in Ireland for changing the dynamic of how we perceive ourselves and how others see us.

Ireland Yearly Meeting 2025

Children's Programme*

| | Friday | Saturday |
|--------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------------|
| 9.30am - 10.30am | | Art & Craft |
| 10:30am - 12:30pm | Art & Craft | Outdoor Adventure |
| | Outdoor Adventure | Outdoor Adventure |
| 2pm – 3:30pm | Wallace Park | IYM Youth Session |
| 4pm – 5:30pm | Cooking | Art & Craft / Outdoor Adventure |

Two volunteers will be on duty each session. Consent forms must be completed for trips to the local park and for photographs. Please advise of any allergies.

Snacks will be provided mid-morning and mid-afternoon. Parents are welcome at any time. Children will be brought to the dining hall to meet parents for mealtimes.

*activities subject to change.

REPRESENTATIVES

Kate Arnot
Gordon Benson
Joyce Steijn

Britain Yearly Meeting
Britain Yearly Meeting
Italian Friends (online)

VISITORS

| | |
|----------------|-----------------------------|
| Wilfried Gaum | German Yearly Meeting |
| Emily Provance | New York Yearly Meeting |
| Ruth Seeley | Philadelphia Yearly Meeting |
| Sophie Naeye | Quaker United Nations |
| Shane Whelehan | Quaker Service |

INTERFAITH VISITORS

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|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Edwin Graham | Bahá'í Community |
| Rev Lynne Gibson | Church of Ireland |
| Rev Aaron McAlister | Church of Ireland |
| Rev Dr Liz Hughes | Presbyterian Church in Ireland |
| Dr Anita Gracie | Methodist Church in Ireland |

An understanding of the nature of God and knowledge of the Bible may be imparted by teaching, but real religious training can best be given by example.

IYM, 1946.

CLERKS of Ireland Yearly Meeting

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| Clerk | William Haire |
| Assistant Clerks | Elizabeth Dickson, Clodagh Davis |
| Recording Clerk | Mary F. McNeilly |
| YM Ministry & Oversight Clerks | Marian Twomey |