



## IRELAND YEARLY MEETING 2025

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

**Friday 25<sup>th</sup> – Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> 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](mailto:office@quakers.ie) Web: [www.quakers.ie](http://www.quakers.ie)

All sessions of Yearly Meeting are open to all Members; with rare exceptions, all are also open to Attenders. **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 25<sup>th</sup> April**

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

7.30pm – 9.00pm      **Public Lecture by James Nelson**  
  
***“Quakers, learning and education – using the future to rethink the present”***

9pm      Tea and Coffee

9.10pm – 9.30pm      Epilogue led by Young Friends

**Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April**

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 (*beside main building*)

**2.00pm – 3.30pm**      **Session 6 - LEARNING WITH OUR YOUNG FRIENDS –  
“Dame Skittles Green Octopus and Petunia Emporium”**

Session led by Young Friends

**3.30pm – 4.00pm**      Coffee and Tea in School Staff Room

**4.00pm – 5.10pm**      **Session 7 - LEARNING TOGETHER**  
**Discussion groups in different rooms.**

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 (*beside main building*)

**7.30pm**      Reading of draft Epistle

**7.45pm – 9.00pm**      Social Evening

**9.10pm – 9.30pm**      Epilogue led by Caro Kelly

**Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April**

**8.30am – 9.30am**      Worship Sharing (Facilitated by Bryan Burke)  
Bible Study (Facilitated by Martin Mail)

**9.45am – 10.45am**      **Session 8**  
Business session:

- 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 Attenders. **Attenders should inform their Meeting Clerks of their wish to attend IYM and ask their Clerks to forward their names to [IYMClerk@quakers.ie](mailto: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)**

**Dorothee 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	Britain Yearly Meeting
Gordon Benson	Britain Yearly Meeting
Joyce Steijn	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**

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**

<b>Clerk</b>	William Haire
<b>Assistant Clerks</b>	Elizabeth Dickson, Clodagh Davis
<b>Recording Clerk</b>	Mary F. McNeilly
<b>YM Ministry &amp; Oversight Clerks</b>	Marian Twomey