

Yearly Meeting Gathering: Frequently Asked Questions

Useful information:

Yearly Meeting Gathering is being held 1–7 August 2020 at University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY.

Yearly Meeting is on the BYM website at www.quaker.org.uk/ym. [Booking terms and conditions](#) can be found there.

Yearly Meeting phone: 020 7663 1040
Yearly Meeting email: ym@quaker.org.uk

Accessibility officer: access@quaker.org.uk
Children & young people's team: 020 7663 1013

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Theme

What's the theme of Yearly Meeting Gathering?

The title of Yearly Meeting Gathering is '*Listening, prophecy and reconciliation: allyship in a climate emergency*'.

Allyship is the practice of being an ally; specifically supporting and listening to members of other groups (who may be marginalised or mistreated). [Dictionary link](#).

Since Yearly Meeting 2019 Friends have been sitting with the questions that arose from our consideration of privilege. We continue to thresh our concerns in local and area meetings and in other settings. We plan to come together at Yearly Meeting Gathering with hearts and minds prepared. We want to think about how we can practice allyship, especially in a climate emergency.

There are reflective questions in the brochure, on page 13 and on [the website](#).

When will I receive documents in advance?

The brochure will be with local meetings in early January 2020.

The programme is expected in March 2020 and will contain session information and a more detailed schedule.

Bookings

Bookings open on 8 January.

Can I book as a group with people who are not family members?

Yes. Please book together. We will make sure to accommodate together those who need to stay together, ie family, access, or safeguarding reasons. We cannot guarantee to accommodate others together.

Can I book separately into another group?

No. One exception is responsible adults who have booked separately but need to be linked to a child or young person. You will be asked to provide additional information at the time of booking so that we can link the two records for accommodation purposes.

How will I know if my booking has been confirmed?

If you book online you will receive an automatic email notifying you that we have received your booking and a place is reserved. Your place will not be confirmed until you have paid in full. In addition, for children and young people, your place will not be confirmed until the Children and Young People's team have had a chance to review the requested information.

I can't use the online system - do you have paper forms?

You can download a form from our website at www.quaker.org.uk/ym, or we can email or post it to you. This will be available from 8 January.

Can I arrive a day early/leave later?

No.

Can I book part of the week?

Yes, the costs are calculated on a pro-rata basis. However, everyone in the booking group must attend for the same period. Dates must be consecutive, ie Mon-Friday, not Mon/Tue then Thur/Fri.

I need help with the booking, who should I contact?

Please phone the bookings team on 020 7663 1040 or email ym@quaker.org.uk.

I/my partner is not in membership can I/they attend?

Yes, you can all attend. However, the main Yearly Meeting sessions can only be attended by those who are in membership or attenders who have received permission to attend. Attenders should request permission to attend through their local meeting elder.

Accommodation

How will I know which accommodation I will be in?

You will select the type of accommodation and catering you want during the bookings process (e.g. ensuite, self-catered). We will email you which block you will be staying in about 3 weeks before the gathering, after we have finalised the rooming allocations. It's possible we may need to make further changes depending upon individual participants' requirements. If so, will let you know.

How will I know who I'm sharing a flat with?

If you are in self-catered accommodation we will email you a list of those who you will be sharing with (who have agreed to share their details) in case you would like to arrange to cook together. Those in Half-board (Dinner bed & breakfast) accommodation will not have names shared.

Can I be accommodated next to people who have booked separately?

We cannot guarantee that you will be accommodated next to each other. If you have particular requirements to be next to each other eg caring responsibilities or family, please let us know. It is much easier to sort this out if you book together.

Campsite

Where is the campsite?

The campsite will be the sports field of the university.

What facilities will there be?

There will be a marquee, fridge, toilets and showers.

Can I bring my campervan?

Yes, but you will need to park on the hard standing car park which is up a ridge from the sports field.

How secure is the campsite?

Please be aware that there is a public footpath along the edge of the field which is well used.

Children & young people

What's a responsible adult?

A responsible adult is a participant attending the event who has responsibility for specific children and young people during the gathering. Responsible adults must be over 20 years old for the Children's and Young People's Programme and over 21 for Junior Yearly Meeting. This person may, or may not be related to the child or young person they are responsible for. For example, for Junior Yearly Meeting some people will be appointed by the Area Meeting to act as Responsible adult for participants.

Why do you need all the medical information?

This information is crucial to the health and safety of participants and to ensure we can cater for the diverse range of needs of our participants.

There is only room in the CYP programme for one of my children – what should I do?

Please contact the CYP team as they may be able to adjust the age groups in the Children's Programme to accommodate additional children. Unfortunately, it's not possible for children & young people to attend Yearly Meeting Gathering without being enrolled in a CYP programme. The programme relies on a large number of volunteers, with specific ratios of volunteers to participants. It's not easy to adjust the programmes.

Will my child have their own room?

Children over the age of 11 years will have their own room.

Children up to 11 years old can have their own room or share with the parent/responsible adult. If sharing a room, a mat or camp bed will be provided and you will need to provide bedding. We can provide a sleeping bag if necessary.

Which age-group will my child be in? Can they change group?

Your child will be in the age group as set out on the booking form. These are organised to accommodate as many children and young people as possible.

If helpful please pass call to CYP as you will get many reasons as to why we should accommodate their child.

Accessibility

I have particular needs, who can I talk to about these?

The Accessibility Officer works on Mondays and Tuesdays. Phone 020 7663 1189 or email access@quaker.org.uk.

How do I get a mobility scooter?

Please indicate this on your booking form.

Will there be someone to help me there?

If you are likely to need care during Yearly Meeting Gathering, you should arrange this through your area meeting well in advance of attending. We recognise that sometimes things occur at the Yearly Meeting Gathering which could not have been foreseen. We have a pastoral care team and accessibility officer who will be able to find you the support you need.

Can I bring my dog?

Only registered assistance dogs may stay on campus. The university does not allow other dogs. Please do not leave dogs in cars.

How accessible is the campus?

All of our accommodation is close to our community space, and the campus is on level ground. The University of Bath has a [webpage giving details of the accessibility on campus](#).

How accessible are sessions?

- There will be a hearing loop system in most of our meeting rooms.
- Speech-to-text reporting will be available in all Yearly Meeting sessions. The words will be shown immediately on a screen in the hall. We also hope to broadcast this directly to phones and tablet devices.
- We hope to share all visual presentations in advance with Friends who have visual impairments and / or ensure that slides are described during presentations.
- Please tell us your needs when you book.

Will there be accessible accommodation?

Yes. There are a number of accessible bedrooms. If you have particular access needs, please state these on your booking form. If you have a carer or personal assistant they will be accommodated close or next to you.

Catering

What food will you provide? Will there be meat?

All catering for those booked into half-board will be vegetarian. Half-board includes overnight accommodation, breakfast and dinner.

The university has a range of other restaurants and catering outlets on site that offer a variety of food options including fish and meat. These other outlets are not included in the fees.

Self-catering

What's included in the kitchen? What do I need to bring?

We will provide a list of equipment about 6 weeks before Yearly Meeting Gathering.

Self-catered kitchens will have basic cooking equipment including plates, bowls, cutlery, saucepans, chopping board, sieve, serving spoons, chopping knives.

Kitchens for those who are half-board will only have tea/coffee making facilities.

How many people will be sharing the kitchen?

This varies according to the accommodation –likely between six and twelve.

How will I know who I'm sharing with?

If you are in self-catered accommodation we will email you a list of those who you will be sharing with (who have agreed to share their details) in case you would like to arrange to cook together. Those in half board accommodation will not have names shared.

Payments / charges

Can I pay by cheque/BACs/Credit Card/Paypal etc?

Card payment is preferred using the online system.

Cheques will be accepted if card payment isn't possible.

We will not accept BACs or Paypal.

How much is the deposit?

20% of the full charge.

What am I being charged for?

There are two different charges:

Daily rate - includes all university costs (except accommodation), staffing costs, equipment and some volunteer expenses. This rate is spread evenly across all participants.

Accommodation costs are charged to residential participants on a pro-rata basis for the duration they attend the gathering, except the first and last days which are free.

What is the bursary fund?

The bursary fund is there to assist those who cannot afford the full cost of the event. We encourage potential applicants to discuss their needs with their meeting in the first instance as they may be able to assist.

How do I apply for a bursary?

Please tick the bursary box on the form – same for online and paper forms. You will not need to pay a deposit if you are requesting a bursary. After your bursary request has been considered, we will notify you of the level of bursary approved and staff will adjust your booking fee appropriately.

How can I donate to the bursary fund?

During your booking process (in the options section) you will have the option to donate to the Bursary fund. You can amend this later on in your booking process by using the back button online.

How much profit does BYM make from Yearly Meeting Gathering?

There is no profit from Yearly Meeting Gathering. The event is subsidised by Britain Yearly Meeting up to £80,000.

Cancellations

Full terms and conditions can be found on the website

Can I get a refund if I cancel?

See [the terms and conditions on our website](#).

- Up to 30 April 2020: full refund minus £15 admin fee
- 1 May 2017 and 7 July 2017: 50% refund
- After 7 July 2017: no refund

If you fail to attend the event you are not entitled to a refund.

Can I transfer my booking to someone else?

Yes, but they must be in the same type of accommodation and catering option. We need to receive the change of name at least two weeks before the start of Yearly Meeting Gathering. Substitutions to the CYP programme are only with the permission of the CYP team and must be received at least a month before Yearly Meeting Gathering to ensure there is space on the programme and that we can cater for their needs.

Why can't I get a full refund?

Up to 30 April we charge £15 administration fee to cover staff time processing refunds. From 1 May we will have made financial commitments based on your booking.

Excursions

When can I book excursions?

This year all excursions will be self-directed and we will make suggestions for excursions you may find of interest. You will be responsible for making your own bookings and for arranging to go with others.

Are there any children's (CYP) excursions?

CYP are not offering excursions.

University Facilities

Will I be able to use the swimming pool?

The swimming pool is a 50 metre long, deep pool. There is no shallow end. It is not suitable for children or anyone who cannot swim 50m without stopping. There is a fee to use this pool, which you can pay when you use it.

How far will I have to walk?

We will be using a portion of Bath's university campus. Please check [the university map for distances and information \(PDF\)](#).

Travel

How easy is it to get there by public transport?

- The nearest railway station is Bath Spa, which is a mainline railway station between Bristol and London Paddington.
- The University of Bath and the railway station route is served by two bus routes, the U1 and U3.
- The U1 is the quickest service to get to the university.
- A single bus ticket is £2.50 for adults, £1.80 for students, £1.30 for children aged 5–15, children under 5 travel for free. ([See the bus company's website - prices correct at September 2019](#))

Yearly Meeting Gathering general

I'm on my own, how will I meet new friends?

- Building community is really important to every Yearly Meeting Gathering. Many Friends will be on their own, and many will be coming to Yearly Meeting Gathering for the first time.
- There will be many opportunities to mix and meet new people. Shared meals and sessions outside of the main Yearly Meeting business are a great way to meet new friends.
- If you are booking as an individual, you will likely be sharing accommodation and be able to meet people in your shared flat.
- The community hub will be full of activities every day where people can drop in and out as they please. There will also be activities running throughout the week in the free time and as part of the Gathering programme.
- The published and online programme will have full information about what's happening at Yearly Meeting Gathering. Expect the full programme to be live in March.

Is there anyone coming from my meeting?

We cannot tell you if anyone else is coming from your meeting due to Data Protection regulations. Please talk to your meeting to find out who else is coming.

I'm a younger friend, where can I meet other young people?

Young Adults at Yearly Meeting is for 18–35 year-olds attending Yearly Meeting Gathering. You will be part of the main sessions but will also connect regularly with your smaller community during the week.

Young Adults is not a fully facilitated programme, but there will be regular sessions and special interest groups that will help younger Friends connect and reflect on their experience of gathering.

If you'd like to know more, please email youngadults@quaker.org.uk.