

Quakers in London

News Sheet 3 December 2025

Sunday 11 January 2026 in the Large Meeting Room, Friends House, NW1 2BJ

A London-wide Meeting for Worship followed by a Joint London Area Meeting for Business

Meeting for Worship will start at 10.30 am and continue until 12 noon so that local meetings that start at either 10.30 or 11 am can join via the blended link. Individuals can also join. There will be a children's meeting at the venue. The link will be live on the day on the London Quakers website.

There will be a break from 12 to 1.30, when tea and coffee will be available. Please bring contributions to a **shared lunch**, or bring your own food if you prefer, or have special dietary requirements.

Joint London Area Meeting for Business will be from **1.30 to 4.30 pm**. It will also be blended, on the same Zoom link. The agenda will be a mixture of business, plus reports of inreach events and outreach work. There will be a programme for children.

Everyone is welcome for the whole day or for the morning or afternoon.

Growing South: a weekend together at High Leigh

Eighty-six people of all ages took part in 'Growing South', a gathering of friends from south of the river held over the second weekend of November at High Leigh conference centre in Hertfordshire. It was an event filled with fellowship, discussion, worship, and plenty of good food, compered by Josh Selfe, Local Development Worker for London, with Julia Stacey, London CYP worker, organising and inspiring the numerous younger friends. Individual sessions were led by members of the constituent area meetings – Kingston and Wandsworth, South East London and South London.

The weekend started on Friday evening with a pub quiz. On Saturday there were discussion sessions in the morning; crafts, games or a three-mile walk through the woods in the afternoon; and further discussion followed by a ceilidh in the evening. On Sunday morning there was all age worship followed by a session led by younger friends. Discussion in the afternoon was prompted by a video from the American group Quaker Connect that aims to support meetings and help them to thrive.

It was an inspiring gathering. The main themes of the weekend had been community, purpose, Quaker life, and outreach. High Leigh is now building a bigger hall to seat 320 people, which raises the tantalising possibility of a future event for the whole of Quakers in London.

Elders and pastoral friends

How can we encourage friends across London to know each other and spend time together? This was one of the questions considered when thirty-four elders and pastoral friends met at Friends House and online on the fourth Saturday in November. Other matters discussed included examples of good and bad eldering, and how to reconcile the differing practices of existing area meetings in dealing with applications for membership. Throughout the event friends were asked to write their thoughts on post-it notes, which Josh Selfe then collected and compiled into a document for wider circulation. The meeting proved to be a useful one and there should be more in 2026. The next one is likely to be online, and to take place in January.

Joint London Area Meetings in 2026

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| January 11 Sunday | Friends House | <i>These are all-day meetings, with mornings spent either in learning or worship, and with business taking place in the afternoon.</i> |
| March 7 Saturday | Wandsworth | |
| June 13 Saturday | Westminster | |
| September 12 Saturday | Wanstead | |
| October 11 Sunday | Friends House | |
| December 13 Sunday | Friends House | |

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

There are plans for this news sheet and an electronic news feed to be issued monthly in 2026.

Issued by the London Development Group.