



IRELAND YEARLY MEETING 2023

9th – 12th April: Special Interest Groups (19.30 – 21.00, online)
13th – 16th April: IYM sessions (blended – in-person and online)

Building Community Together

*... let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds.
– Hebrews 10:224-25.*

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 Attenders.

Registration Link - IYM: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/ireland-yearly-meeting-2023-building-community-together-tickets-507674918347>

Registration Link – Public Lecture: <https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/hospitality-the-pilgrim-a-quakers-reflection-on-communion-and-community-tickets-512923667497>

Thursday 13th April

- 14.00 – 15.00** Arrival and reception, tea/coffee
- 15.00 – 16.45** **Session 1 – Connecting communities (blended)**
- Opening Meeting for Worship (*Reading – Derek McLean*)
- Welcome
- Quaker Connections – Shane Whelehan (Quaker Service)
Our Church Communities in the Aftermath of the Pandemic
– Ruth Garvey–Williams (Vox magazine) [online]
Fostering Community through Inter-Church and Inter-faith
Encounter – James Nelson
- 17.00 – 17.45** Reception for visitors and those at IYM for the first time (in person)
- 18.00 – 19.00** Evening Meal
- 19.30 – 21.00** **Yearly Meeting Ministry & Oversight Session (blended, open to all)**
- To be determined
- 21.00 – 21.30** Tea/Coffee
- 21.30 – 21.50** Candlelit Worship (facilitated by Fiona Devlin;
parallel Zoom session facilitated by Mary O'Connor)

Friday 14th April

- 08.30 – 09.15** **Early morning activities (in person):**
Sharing Bible passages that have influenced our lives
[please come with ideas of passages to share!]
(facilitated by Stephen Winder–Baggot)
Worship Sharing (facilitated by Felicity McCartney)
Meeting for Worship for Healing (facilitated by Pauline
Goggin)
- 09.15 – 09.45** Tea/Coffee available

- 09.45 – 11.00** **Session 2 – Running our Community:
Finances and Reports (blended)**
- Opening Meeting for Worship (*Reading – Kate McNally*)
Record of Reports Received
Summary Treasurer’s Report and Acceptance of Accounts
- 11.10 – 12.00** **Session 3 – SIG follow-ups (in person)**
- Quakers and a Peace Testimony – an Exploration
Food for Thought – a Conversation about Food and the
Food System
- 12.15 – 13.45** Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.30** **Session 4 – Quaker Community Past and Present
(blended)**
- Letter of Greeting from Britain Yearly Meeting
Short report of Epistles from other Yearly Meetings – LQM
- The Community of Early Friends – Stuart Masters
(Woodbrooke) [Online]
QCEA – Working for Justice and Peace in a Time of Climate
Crisis – Tracey Martin (QCEA)
- 15.30 – 16.00** Tea/Coffee break
- 16.00 – 17.30** **Session 5 – Exploring Community Together
(descriptions at back of programme)**
- Art Workshop with John O’Flynn
Reflective Poetry Reading with Colm Heffernon
Life Reflections workshop with Dan Flynn
International folk dancing with Denise Gabuzda
- 18.00 – 19.00** Evening Meal
- 19.30 – 21.00** **PUBLIC LECTURE (in-person/online , separate webinar
Zoom link)**
- Hospitality and the Pilgrim: a Quaker’s reflection
on communion and community – Harvey Gillman**

- 21.00 – 21.30 Tea/Coffee
- 21.40 – 22.00 Candlelit Worship (facilitated by Bairbre NicAongusa;
parallel Zoom session facilitated by Siobhan Matthews)

Saturday 15th April

- 08.30 – 09.15 **Early morning activities (in person):**
Bible Study (facilitated by David Gamble)
Worship Sharing (facilitated by Marian Twomey)
- 09.30 – 11.00 **Session 6 – Nurturing Community (blended)**
- Opening Meeting for Worship (*Reading – Ethel Livermore*)
- Supporting Community through Social Media – Fiona
Murdoch
- The Friendly Podcasts – Hugh O’Farrell–Walsh
Revising our “Red Book” – Will Haire & Catherine Sanborn
Hosting a Ukrainian Family – Ainda Andress
- 11.00 – 11.30 **Tea/Coffee Break**
- 11.30 – 13.00 **Session 7 – Preparing for Peace (blended)**
- How can we prepare for peace?
Florence Foster (QUNO – Geneva)
Iain Atack (Irish School of Ecumenics, retired)
- Discussion/discernment
- 13.10 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.30 – 15.15 **Session 8 – Our Young People’s Community (blended)**
- IYM Children’s Programme – Catherine Bell and others
Junior Yearly Meeting Epistle
Reflections on Young Friends’ Community – Young Friends
- 15.15 – 15.45 Tea/Coffee break

15.45 – 16.45	<u>Session 9 – Meet with our speakers</u> Tracey Martin – QCEA Harvey Gillman – Meet the Public Lecturer
17.00 – 18.00	<u>Session 9 – Meet with our speakers (cont'd)</u> Florence Foster & Iain Atack – Preparing for Peace
18.30 – 19.30	Evening Meal
20.00 – 21.15	Social Evening (in person)
21.15 – 21.40	Tea/Coffee
21.40 – 22.00	Candlelit Worship (facilitated by Michael Horgan); parallel Zoom session (facilitated by Siobhan Matthews)

Sunday 16th April

9.00 – 10.30	<u>Session 10 – Closing Session (blended)</u> Reading of Epistle Attendance at IYM sessions Reflections on IYM Appointment of Clerks Closing Minute
11.00 – 12.00	Meeting for Worship (blended)
12.30 – 13.30	Lunch
14.00 – 15.00	Departure

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

1. The Goffs of Horetown – a Typical 18th c. Quaker Family

Speaker: Claire Bradley

Sunday 9th April 7.30pm

Claire Bradley traces the Goff family from the mid-18th to the end of the 19th century. The talk will show how separate and distinct Quakers were from the rest of Irish society, yet how they left a big legacy. Followed by a Q&A session.

2. Life Reflections

Facilitator: Daniel Flynn

Monday 10th April 7.30pm

Who are you? Where do you want to go? What do you want to do? How do you get there? This session offers tools for self-discovery and future direction. Together we will practice silence, reflection and sharing our learning.

3. Quakers and a Peace Testimony – an Exploration

Facilitators: Will Haire and others

Tuesday 11th April, 7.30pm

In this SIG we will consider the origin and development of our Peace Testimony and provide a space for people to discuss what the Peace Testimony might mean for us today.

4. Food for Thought – a Conversation about Food and the Food System

Facilitators: South Belfast EcoQuakers

Wednesday 12th April, 7.30pm

Our food system contributes hugely to the planetary climatic and ecological emergencies. This SIG will take you on a journey of learning and discernment, guided by Quaker commitments to simplicity, stewardship, and sustainability.

EXPLORING COMMUNITY TOGETHER OPTIONS

Art Workshop with John O’Flynn

This workshop is designed to accommodate any level of experience. If you have never tried to do artwork before – consider that we are encouraged to live adventurously!

Reflective Poetry Reading with Colm Heffernon

Bring along a favourite poem, written by yourself or someone else, to read out. Come listen to poems and engage in reflective conversations about them.

Life Reflections workshop with Dan Flynn

Who are you? Where do you want to go? What do you want to do? How do you get there? This workshop offers tools for self-discovery and future direction. Together we will practice silence, reflection and sharing our learning.

International folk dancing with Denise Gabuzda

Learn circle, line and couple dances from around the world – move to great music from Europe, the Middle East and further afield. No experience needed!

OUR SPEAKERS

Iain Atack is a Churchtown Friend who is retired from the Irish School of Ecumenics.

Florence Foster is the Representative for the Peace and Disarmament Programme of the Geneva Quaker Office United Nations ([QUNO](#)).

Ruth Garvey-Williams is Editor at [VOX Magazine](#). Ruth has travelled extensively throughout Ireland visiting the broad spectrum of Christian churches on the island.

Harvey Gillman, this year’s Public Lecturer, served for many years as outreach secretary for Britain Yearly Meeting. He has written many insightful, thought-provoking and uplifting books, essays and articles about Quakerism and the nature of spirituality. Over the years since his retirement, he has continued to offer workshops on these themes. Increasingly he finds poetry the most stimulating form of theology.

Tracey Martin has recently been appointed as Director, Quaker Council for European Affairs ([QCEA](#)).

Stuart Masters is the Programme Coordinator for History & Theology at the [Woodbrooke](#) Quaker Study Centre in Birmingham.

Shane Whelehan is Chief Executive of [Quaker Service Northern Ireland](#), a family welfare charity pioneered and developed by the Religious Society of Friends.

REPRESENTATIVES

VISITORS

INTERFAITH VISITORS

Our life is love, and peace, and tenderness; and bearing one with another, and forgiving one another, and not laying accusations one against another; but praying one for another, and helping one another up with a tender hand.

– Isaac Penington, 1667

CLERKS of Ireland Yearly Meeting

Clerk

Denise C. Gabuzda

Assistant Clerks

Pleasaunce Perry, Hugh O'Farrell-Walsh

Recording Clerk

Mary F. McNeilly

YM Ministry & Oversight Clerks

Kathy Stephenson, Marian Twomey