

# Creating Community: *Creating Connections*

Yearly Meeting Gathering  
University of York  
25 July – 1 August 2009



# Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009

In 2009 Britain Yearly Meeting will hold a new kind of Quaker event – the Yearly Meeting Gathering. This is an opportunity for us to come together, to explore issues, make decisions, have fun, learn and grow as a community.

## For all ages

The Children and Young People's Programme will be a central and vibrant part of the gathering. Those aged 0–15 will have their own programme for YMG with a whole host of activities for exploring the gathering theme of 'Creating Community, Creating Connections' in exciting, challenging and creative ways, having fun, playing games and hearing stories. They will also be exploring issues on the Yearly Meeting agenda.

15-18 year-olds will attend Junior Yearly Meeting at YMG. JYM will be running a separate but connected programme parallel to YMG, with

*All the buzz & business of Yearly Meeting*  
*All the fun & fellowship of Summer Gathering*  
*All the energy & excitement of Junior Yearly Meeting*

The event will be a fusion of Yearly Meeting, Summer Gathering, Junior Yearly Meeting and a Children and Young People's Programme for those aged 0–15. The different strands of the event will be interwoven throughout the week so that each gatherer can find their own path.

We will gather at the University of York from 25 July to 1 August 2009 for a week of worship, friendship, enjoyment, learning, celebration, Yearly Meeting business, spiritual growth and fun – and the connections between all of these. The event will welcome all – anyone and everyone of all ages! New attenders and experienced Friends and everyone in between – plus partners and family members.

This will be an integrated, inclusive and accessible event; an inspiring event which takes us into and out of ourselves, and also carries us back, strengthened and grounded, to our local meetings, communities and daily lives.

The whole gathering is open to everyone. Some sessions are intended for members but attenders will be welcome if they have been given permission in advance. If you need this permission please ask a local Elder and consult *Quaker faith & practice* 6.15.

a related theme. JYM will start a day earlier than YMG on Friday 24 July and will be a residential programme, with JYM participants accommodated together as a group on the university campus.

The JYM theme will be explored through activities, speakers and discussion, as well as linking in with other gatherers to work on some parts of the Yearly Meeting business agenda. JYM will also include a variety of social events and recreational activities.

There will also be lots of opportunities during the week when the whole Gathering will come together as a community to worship, share and have fun.

All gatherers aged 0–18 must register on the CYP Programme and commit themselves for the whole week. Most places for JYM are for Area Meeting nomination but there are also open places that can be booked directly; the deadline for all bookings is 31 March.

Places on the 0–15s programme and open places at JYM are allocated on a first come first served basis. To book a place please tick the relevant box on the booking form. You will then be sent additional forms. All gatherers aged 0–18 must agree to abide by the event boundaries.

For further information about the CYP Programme contact Simon Best (see over).

[www.ymg.org.uk](http://www.ymg.org.uk)

## Creating connections

The smaller communities of Home Groups will be a way of creating connections within the wider Gathering. Home Groups will meet throughout the week as a space to reflect, to let off steam and share experiences together. Groups will operate in a range of ways; you will be asked to express a preference at a later stage.

## Visits day

Wednesday is Visits day! Choose from a variety of trips to interesting and beautiful places in Yorkshire – full details are in the enclosed Visits brochure.

## The venue

The University of York is centred on a lake with a covered walkway around it. The campus is situated to the south east of the city and is a single bus journey from the railway station. Most of the campus is level. Main Sessions will be in the Central Hall which will seat 1190 people and has step-free access. There are several cafés, bars and restaurants which will be open for our use, as well as a reasonably sized Costcutter supermarket on campus. There is a sports centre but no swimming pool.

## Accommodation

Accommodation is in university halls of residence, in single rooms. There is a choice of en-suite and standard accommodation in both catered (breakfast and evening meal) and self-catering rooms. There is accommodation for a range of accessibility needs. Unfortunately there is no camping on site.

The catered accommodation is situated close to the central lake. Some of the self-catered accommodation is up to a 15-minute walk away (see adjacent map). Gatherers in half-board and self-catered accommodation can be together in houses and flats of between 5 and 19 rooms.

Children of primary school age may if you wish share a room with one other person. Children three or under must share rooms with an adult. We will provide a sleeping bag and roll mat if you can not bring your own. Unfortunately we cannot guarantee room types and so we ask you to let us know your preferences in order to allocate the best option.



## Getting there

The university has a number of car parks. Blue badge holders may use these without charge, otherwise a fee will be charged for the week. There are excellent public transport connections to York and the university campus.



## A gathering for all

We intend Yearly Meeting Gathering to be an inclusive and accessible community where all help to care for each other whilst participating as fully as possible. Please state your needs clearly on the booking form. We will do our best to satisfy all requests within the constraints of the venue and the event as a whole.

Making the event affordable is a priority. If you need financial help to enable you to come please get more details from your local overseers, [ymg.org.uk/bursary](http://ymg.org.uk/bursary) or by contacting the YMG Office at Friends House. Those who can afford to, and are willing, will be asked to give a donation to a bursary fund for those who are less able to pay.

## Helping at the Gathering

Do you have service to offer to the Yearly Meeting Gathering? Please consider what skills and experience you may have which will help to create the community we seek. Fill out the section in the booking form and we will ask later for more details. These include

facilitating and running groups of various kinds, helping with the smooth running of the event and volunteering with the Children and Young People's Programme for a session or two. Offers of this kind are vital to creating a vibrant and exciting event.

## What next?

The Yearly Meeting Gathering will be a focal point for the year 2009. There will be learning materials and an interactive website to help you prepare heart and mind throughout the year. You will receive your booking confirmation in late April along with further information about your accommodation, visits and options, and an invoice. You will also receive Documents in Advance for Yearly Meeting.

## For further information

The YMG Office at Friends House on 020 7663 1040 or [ymg@quaker.org.uk](mailto:ymg@quaker.org.uk). If your query specifically relates to the Children & Young Peoples Programme, including JYM, contact Simon Best on 020 7663 1160 or [simonb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:simonb@quaker.org.uk).



YMG - it won't happen without you!