



Among Friends

Friends World Committee for Consultation Europe and Middle East Section

No 165 ■ Spring 2025



REFLECTIONS

by Ethel Livermore

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QUAKERISM, AS AN EXPERIENTIAL FAITH, CHANGES OVER TIME.

Friends around the world have evolved differently so Quakers today are very diverse, with different worship styles

and theologies. But we all share the same roots – the teachings of early Friends. We all share the same Quaker values and testimony, and a recognition that Quakerism is about how we live our lives in the world, not just “what we do on Sunday”.

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Friends World Committee for Consultation

EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST SECTION

fwccemes.org

Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC) encourages fellowship and understanding among all the branches of the Religious Society of Friends. It brings Quakers together in multiple ways to celebrate God in our lives, to gather the Quaker voice, build networks to address issues of our time, and to unite Friends within our diversity.

Despite differences in the ways we worship and our theologies, our Quaker values are shared by all Friends and there is a willingness to share and to learn from each other. For example, a number of East African Friends have shared how much they value the silence and want to find ways of incorporating it more into their services. I know a number of European Friends who have felt their spiritual lives enriched by the input from Programmed Friends.

In the last year, as Clerk of FWCC Europe & Middle East Section, I have been privileged to attend all four regional gatherings of Quakers around the world – in the Americas, Europe & the Middle East, Asia West Pacific, and Africa.

Each group is different and has its own flavour, but there are so many things that unite us. This is not intended as a travelogue or a report on each event, more a reflection on what unites us all – a real reflection on unity in diversity.

continued...

REFLECTIONS

» For context, I'll start with a very brief description of the four gatherings

The Sections of the Americas (SoA) Gathering was held in March 2025 in Arizona, USA. There were 145 Friends meeting in person, with 30 online, from 9 countries, covering North, Central, South America and the Caribbean. The theme was: Building the Future as Way Opens, Isaiah 43:19: "Look, I am doing something new! Now it emerges, can you not see it? Yes, I am making a road in the desert and rivers in the wasteland"

The Europe and Middle East Section (EMES) Annual Meeting was held in May 2025 in Warsaw, Poland and online. 80 Friends from 22 countries met to consider the theme: How do we live together as a community of Friends in Europe & the Middle East? Acts 15:25: "It seemed good to us, having come to one accord."

The Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS) Gathering was held in October 2025 in Seoul, South Korea. There were 45 Friends from 10 countries. There wasn't a specific theme, but the focus was very much on being together and sharing and learning from one another.

The Africa Section (AS) held their Triennial Gathering at the end of Feb 2026 in Kampala, Uganda. There were over 150 Friends present from 9 countries covering East, West, Central and Southern Africa. The theme was "Who is my Neighbour", Luke 10:29.

There are a number of common threads from the gatherings that I have picked out...

HOSPITALITY

The hospitality I have received on all of my travels has been amazing. To be met by a friendly face at the airport when you arrive off a night flight (for me, having had no sleep), and have your onward travel taken care of makes such a difference. In some of these countries, particularly where the host group of Quakers is very small, receiving visitors is so important. The host meetings also had an opportunity at each gathering to welcome us all and share something of their faith and culture. In Seoul this included teaching us all a traditional Korean game – Yunnori. I'm not sure I fully understood the rules, but it was great fun and really brought everyone together.

LANGUAGE INCLUSION

All sections face language challenges. SoA has been bilingual in English and Spanish for many years, providing

interpretation at all its meetings. EMES, having traditionally been run in English, is starting to experiment more. At the meeting in 2025 there was consecutive interpretation in Polish (in the room) and Russian (online). It was wonderful that so many of our Polish hosts were able to fully participate as a result.

In AWPS, another predominantly English-run section, there was consecutive interpretation into Korean in many sessions, and whispered interpretation into other languages (eg Japanese). There were also short slots for Friends around the section to share/teach us a few words from their own language. In Africa the main languages are English, Kiswahili, French. The sessions of the Gathering were held in English. Going forward this is likely to change as their new clerk is from Rwanda and spoke to us in French with interpretation to English.

One common theme around language inclusion is around the difficulty of finding the right word or phrase for traditional quaker terminology.

For example, discernment is a word used a lot by Friends here in Britain, but it took a group of Friends in South Korea a long time to agree on an appropriate Korean translation. SoA have produced a digital glossary of Quaker terms in English and Spanish and are planning to extend it to other languages which will be a great resource for Friends around the world.

YOUNG ADULT FRIENDS (YAFS)

Three of the four section meetings had gatherings for YAFs either just before or alongside them. This meant there was a good attendance of YAFs at each gathering, which brought additional energy to the events. EMES and AS both have established groups – European & Middle East Young Friends (EMEYF) and Young Quakers Christian Association. In SoA and AWPS, bringing YAFs together before the section meetings was a chance for their YAFs to come together and consider how they might network more in the future.

ACTION IN THE WORLD

Friends around the world, from all traditions are committed to making the world a better place. For all of us Quakerism is a faith that we live rather than "what we do on a Sunday". Our Quaker Testimony in the world (in some places, often referred to as SPICES) is a key part of this.



Clockwise from top:

- The Sections of the Americas (SoA) Gathering
- The Europe and Middle East Section (EMES) Annual Meeting
- The Africa Section (AS)
- The Asia West Pacific Section (AWPS) Gathering



At all the gatherings we heard of the work done on our behalf by Quaker Agencies – Quaker United Nations offices, Quaker Council for European Affairs, American Friends Service Committee etc.

We also heard of work being done locally by Friends – work supporting Conscientious Objectors in Ukraine & Russia, Australia YMs Quaker Peace & Legislation Committee, a Friend working in Myanmar, Alternatives to Violence Project work in Africa. How to be a peace church in the world today was a recurring theme.

UNDERSTANDING OUR QUAKERISM

Another common theme across sections and traditions was the importance of understanding and being rooted in our Quakerism. In some areas numbers might be growing, but how do we share our faith and practice with new

attenders? In East Africa, how can new pastors who haven't been trained in a Quaker college pass on our Quaker values? In EMES there are isolated Friends and online groups – how do we help them learn more?

In AWPS they have developed a new set of Advices & Queries for the region and published a draft in 6 languages for Friends across the region to reflect on. SoA have developed a programme called Quaker Connect to support Friends churches and meetings—helping them grow deeper and broader in their connections.

INTERVISITATION

Intervisitation has always been important to Friends, from early Friends to the present day. It is how we have stayed connected, and how our Quaker faith has continued to be shared and deepened. »

REFLECTIONS

» Intervisitation can happen between Sections, but is probably more common within Sections. In EMES over the past year there have been pastoral visits to Friends in the Middle East, to Friends in Ukraine and to Friends in the Baltic states. The two Meetings in the Middle East are well established, but are very small and currently receive few visitors. In Ukraine there are two worship groups that mainly meet online. In the Baltics there is a worship group in Tallinn and a number of isolated Friends in Latvia and Lithuania. In all these visits, being able to meet, share and worship with Friends in person was so important.

Attending the Section of the Americas Gathering in the USA in March 2025 – I felt it was important to be there with Friends at that time and many Friends commented on how much they valued the fact that I had come – mainly for the solidarity shown in the current political climate, but also recognising the value of intervisitation between Sections at any time. In AWPS they provided opportunities for visitors from beyond their own section to share some of their experiences, and in Africa Section again there were opportunities for me to share my experiences of being a Friend in Britain.

JOY

If I had to pick one word to unite all the Gatherings it would have to be Joy. The joy of being together, worshipping together, sharing and learning from each other.

A few years ago, I sang a choral work that included the phrase **“O how great and how wonderful the joys of meeting will be”**. Truly what I experienced at all these gatherings.

I'll end with a few random quotes I jotted down. Out of context it's not easy to tell which part of the Quaker world they are each from:

- That of God in Everyone is a radical spiritual claim. If we claim it, we must live it.
- How do we listen and follow the leadings of the spirit?
- Religion that is apathetic to our neighbour is empty.
- Be fearless in the pursuit of what sets your soul on fire.
- Outreach is extending love, service and witness beyond our walls.
- Inreach is to ensure our church is a place of spiritual nourishment
- We experience unity of purpose when we allow ourselves to be changed through listening for points of connection rather than for points of disagreement.

Unity is not uniformity – we are not identical, but we do share a close spiritual bond. I have gained so much from my Quaker travels, spending time with Friends from different cultures and Quaker traditions.

I'd like to share a short quote from Qf&p 13:31 which feels as true for me as it was for Richard Schardt, its author:

“The words of John Woolman are in the travelling minute: ‘A concern arose... that I might feel and understand their life and the Spirit they live in, if haply I might receive some instruction from them, or they be in any degree helped forward by my following the leadings of Truth amongst them’. John Woolman’s hopes have been abundantly fulfilled for me.” ■



World Committee of Young Adult Friends Meets in Kenya and Uganda



Attending in person from left to right: Micah (Kenya), Neyda (Bolivia), Kopano (South Africa), Paula (Germany) and Tim (UK). Aman (India) and Meghan (Aotearoa/New Zealand) joined the meeting via Zoom.

Since its creation during an international gathering of around 50 young adult Quakers alongside the World Plenary Meeting in South Africa in 2024, the World Executive Committee of Young Adult Friends (WECYAF) has been strengthening connections between young Quakers from all over the world.

At the end of February, the committee came together for a hybrid meeting in Cheptebo, Kenya, in Namugongo, Uganda and online. They combined this committee meeting with attending the Young Quaker Christian Association's (YQCA) conference, held in Namugongo from the February 26 until March 1.

This meeting provided a much appreciated opportunity to spend more time in conversation and discernment than online meetings across time zones usually allow. Considering their different areas of work and the need to work consistently and sustainably toward their goals, the WECYAF has established additional sub-committees to focus on the committee's formal structure, on worship & community and on getting started on plans for a World Gathering of young adult Friends respectively.

This decision and the conversations leading up to it have infused the WECYAF's work with renewed momentum and greatly strengthened the committee's team spirit. Kopano writes:

"The committee meeting created a space where everyone felt heard and included, and I appreciated how open and collaborative the discussions were. The meeting felt purposeful, with clear intentions to move forward together while valuing each person's

contribution. What I liked most was the sense of connection and shared responsibility. Even though some joined online and others were physically present, it still felt like one community. I was also pleasantly surprised by how productive and organised the meeting was, and how much we were able to achieve in a short space of time."

Meetings for worship, walks through breathtaking nature and many open conversations at the dinner table enriched the meeting and allowed WECYAF members to further nurture their relationships to God, to one another and to Friends from different African countries. The YQCA conference especially offered plenty of opportunities of witnessing one another in the diversity of languages, cultures and Quaker traditions present. Paula writes:

"Our days in East Africa were filled with new encounters, excellent food, catchy songs and thought-provoking conversations and we are immensely grateful to the Quaker organisations who provided our funding and especially to the African Friends who welcomed us with open arms and made this trip an unforgettable experience!"

On the conference's theme of being "Rooted in God's Strength and Our Faith", keynote speaker Esther Mombo says: *"Rootedness means that your courage is sustained so that you return again and again to this work."*

And indeed, it is with sustained courage that the WECYAF continues its work of nurturing an inclusive and growing global network and planning toward a World Gathering of Young Adult Friends.



BOOK REVIEWS

by Daniel Clarke Flynn

REFUGEE: POEMS OF EL SALVADOR AND PALESTINE by Paul Totah

This is a short, impressive, and deeply moving new collection of narrative poems that allow the people that author Paul Totah interviewed or talked about to speak their truth in sometimes raw, stark, and shocking ways. The poetry invites us to pause and absorb what is being said more than prose could.

Paul was born in 1957 in San Francisco, California, USA. His father John B. Totah was born in Ramallah, Palestine, in 1927 in a home near the Ramallah Friends School that Quakers started in 1869 and continue to support.¹ John was sent to be educated, however; by the Franciscans at Terra Sancta school in Jerusalem.² After the Nakba – the expulsion of 750,000 Palestinians during the 1948 Palestine war – John migrated to San Francisco in 1951 where he married Sellwah, Paul’s mom, whose parents also migrated from Palestine.

The book is organised in three parts:

REFUGEE tells the story of a Salvadoran medical doctor; Juan Romagoza Arce, whom Paul met and befriended in the 1980s. They were part of the sanctuary movement that offered help to those escaping El Salvador’s civil war provoked by the United States. Paul marched from San Jose to San Francisco, California, with Juan and learned how he had been jailed and tortured in El Salvador for the crime of helping the poor.⁴

PALESTINE touches upon the violence that has devastated his ancestral region since 1948, including the most recent attacks on Gaza that leading human rights groups have called a genocide.⁵ Paul combined poems about El Salvador along with those about Palestine spanning several decades because for him both involve needless wars that resulted in the deaths of innocent civilians and the creation of refugees seeking safety far from the rubble of their homes.

REFUGEE recounts the lives of Paul’s relatives and their efforts to make a new home in the San Francisco Bay Area whose original indigenous people, the Ohlone Chumash Tribe, lived without war or famine for 10,000 years. The Ohlone were displaced by Spanish colonial invaders and Christian missionaries from Europe in the

1700s. Later, after gold was discovered in California in 1848, state militia companies, United States Army units, vigilante groups and individuals targeted the Ohlone and killed as many as 16,000.^{5 6}

I was born in San Francisco in 1939 and am the grandson of four 19th Century migrants to the United States looking to live freer lives than they could in their countries of origin at that time. My father’s parents came from Ireland and my mother’s parents from Germany. Both of my parents were subsequently born in the U.S. in the 19th Century, dad in San Francisco in 1882 and mom in Davis, West Virginia in 1899, and both went on to live full lives in the U.S. in the 20th Century.

Paul hopes readers will consider how we all might experience our own sense of being refugees and how we try to find refuge by crafting a home wherever we find ourselves. This duality — of feeling both rootless and rooted, of longing and belonging — is something that may speak to all of us. He hopes that it also helps to see new ways to help the refugees around us, especially as new refugees are continuing to be created by war; authoritarian governments and climate change, calling us to offer more places of sanctuary.

The book is available for purchase on Amazon.⁷ All profits will benefit the Berkeley-based Middle East Children’s Alliance (MECA)⁸ and its efforts to help those affected by the violence in Palestine.



¹ mailchi.mp/6c70d3b9ff1e/november-1?e=099cfef0cc

² rfs.edu.ps/en | ³ terrasanta.school

⁴ cja.org/what-we-do/litigation/romagoza-arce-v-garcia-and-vides-casanova/clients/client-dr-juan-romagoza-arce

⁵ amnesty.org/en/latest/news/2024/12/amnesty-international-concludes-israel-is-committing-genocide-against-palestinians-in-gaza

⁶ ohlonetribe.org | ⁷ newsroom.ucla.edu/stories/revealing-the-history-of-genocide-against-californias-native-americans

⁸ amazon.com/dp/B0GPN3CGPD/ref=tmm_pap_swatch_0

Daniel Clarke Flynn: woodbrooke.org.uk/people/daniel-clarke-flynn

AN EXACTING MISTRESS: THE FRIENDS AMBULANCE UNIT IN WWII

edited by Antony Barlow

An Exacting Mistress: The Friends Ambulance Unit in WWII is an impressive coffee-table sized book with 643 fascinating photos and illustrations. The heart of the book, though, are the beautiful letters editor Antony Barlow's parents Ralph and Joan exchanged from October 1940 to December 1944 during the darkest days of World War II. Ralph was away serving in Friends Ambulance Unit (FAU) leadership positions while his wife Joan moved about in England raising their two sons, David and Antony, away from Nazi Blitz bombing.

Quakers originally set up the FAU during World War I to provide young men an alternative form of service. It was independent of Britain Yearly Meeting and was staffed primarily by registered Conscientious Objectors. It was re-activated in 1939 under the leadership of Paul S. Cadbury and trained over 1,300 people, both Quakers and non-Quakers, who went on to serve as ambulance drivers and medical orderlies in Britain and abroad during World War II, often embedded in British military units.

Most impressive is the private correspondence that Ralph and Joan were able to maintain, holding their marriage together. Sometimes letters and packages sent took days, weeks, and even months, leaving both concerned about the well being of the other. Antony let the correspondence of his parents speak of its own without comment other than brief introductions or explanations when needed. The correspondence gives insight into the heroic, loving behavior of an exemplary English Quaker couple during the darkest of times.

Ralph Barlow was born in a house on Bristol road in Selly Oak southwest of Birmingham, England in 1910, only seven years after chocolate entrepreneur Quaker George Cadbury had gifted his nearby former family home on Bristol Road in trust through Cadbury's Bournville Village Trust (BVT) to the Quakers as an educational institution that became known as Woodbrooke College.

Ralph's father, John Henry Barlow was the first director of BVT and helped George Cadbury and John Wilhelm Rowntree create Woodbrooke College. He was also clerk of London Friends Yearly Meeting throughout the World War I and was instrumental

in getting the 'conscience clause' included in the 1916 Military Service Act, which was making conscription compulsory. This clause enabled pacifists to abstain from conscription on grounds of conscience and do alternative service, and subsequently led to the founding of the Friends War Victims Relief Committee, later becoming the FAU.

This allowed his son Ralph Barlow to become a Conscientious Objector and join the FAU in 1940. Ralph led FAU units in a variety of international locations such as China, India, South Africa, Egypt and Ethiopia, even when infected with jaundice in Egypt and later endemic encephalitis in Ethiopia from which he never fully recovered. After the war ended in 1945, Ralph followed in the footsteps of his father, John Henry Barlow who was the first head of the BVT, as the General Manager of the BVT, a position he held until his retirement in 1973.

He died at Woodbrooke in 1980, shortly after his 70th birthday. His widow Joan Barlow went on to live 27 more years, to the age of 93 in 2007, doing service for Woodbrooke from her home in nearby Selly Oak that provided hospitality for Woodbrooke students from abroad. But, where does the title, *An Exacting Mistress*, come from?

It comes from the penultimate chapter of the book, "What did we Achieve?" Ralph Barlow had struggled throughout his FAU service with having declared himself a Conscientious Objector (CO), »



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Selected Further Reading

abarlowquaker.com
oxfordquaker.com/newsletter/march-2021-volume-503/an-exacting-mistress
birminghammail.co.uk/news/nostalgia/cadbury-cousin-reveals-more-life-10739137



Ralph and Joan Barlow and family

» the challenges of the FAU sometimes being embedded in military units, and with the question, what were he or the FAU accomplishing?

In the penultimate chapter, these reflections of Ralph are offered:

“I expect that we all have our own personal feelings towards the Unit (the FAU). There has been much depression, much frustration, very much anxiety and worry and much disappointment, but my debt to the Unit is very great. It has been in many ways an exacting mistress, and those of us who are married must have much sympathy for our wives, but, though the war and the Unit have taken much away from us, there are, I think, certain things that we can be grateful for.

It has brought us experiences which we would not have had otherwise, and if we think of the work that many of us would have been doing as CO's but for the Unit, we must be grateful for the experience it has brought us, of administering a body such as the Unit or of conditions of work in different parts of the world, and perhaps, above all, we must be grateful for the experience meeting all sorts of different people in the Unit and for the friendships we have made.

In considering the future, I think we should think not so much what the Unit will do, but what we ourselves are able to make of the experience which the Unit has brought us and how, with what we have learned in the Unit, we can conduct ourselves in the years to come.”

There is a great lesson in this final paragraph for me – how to use the experience given to us.

A quarter century after Ralph Barlow wrote those words, a group of French doctors and journalists began what became known as Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) Doctors Without Borders who sought with passion and compassion to bring emergency medical and living aid to those suffering the most in our world from armed conflict, disease, and natural catastrophes, and to publicize those needs to the world.

Fifteen years ago I began volunteer service with MSF operational headquarters in Brussels and came to appreciate first-hand what courageous and caring humanitarians such as the FAU and MSF contribute to our world, and for that I am indeed grateful.

CONSIDERING COMMUNITIES IN THE CLOUD

Letters we received in response to last issue's cover story.



I have been hosting online meetings in four international associations/communities based on spiritual/moral principles/values for the past 17 years. For example, I have been hosting the Thursday evening online Meeting for Worship offered by Woodbrooke/EMES in the almost six years since the Covid pandemic started in March 2020.

My experience is that online technology offers broader opportunities to discover, join and serve in communities that enhance our spiritual quest than would otherwise be the case.

The question for me is not how communities in the cloud will impact in-person meetings, but how communities in the cloud can adopt the most supportive practices such as pastoral care offered by in-person communities whilst not being weighed down by in-person Quaker communities issues such as property and uniquely local practices and traditions.

I have come to believe that life is learning and that revelation continues.

This statement in the Quaker Faith and Practice introduction to Advices & Queries in the Yearly Meetings of Britain, Ireland, France and others speaks my belief: "Our diversity invites us both to speak what we know to be true in our lives and to learn from others."

Online international Meeting for Worship offered by both Woodbrooke/EMES and Quaker communities round the world offers the broadest opportunity ever to 'learn from others' and for that I am grateful.

Daniel Clarke Flynn

Having attended several online meetings recently I would like to share my thoughts. I have been to in person meetings before, albeit a few years ago, but was always disappointed. I have found online meetings to be much better for me and have felt close to feeling "gathered" in some.

I suspect many enquirers into Quakerism go to meetings, find an hour is just too long and never return. They may find shorter sessions online to be helpful and may lead to hour long meetings later. If the same people attend online every week then it should be possible to create a sense of belonging eventually.

Also some people find going to a meeting in person is difficult if they are shy or embarrassed. In short these online sessions are, for me, a Godsend. Perhaps more opportunity to have conversations after the meeting is over will strengthen the relationship between attendees?

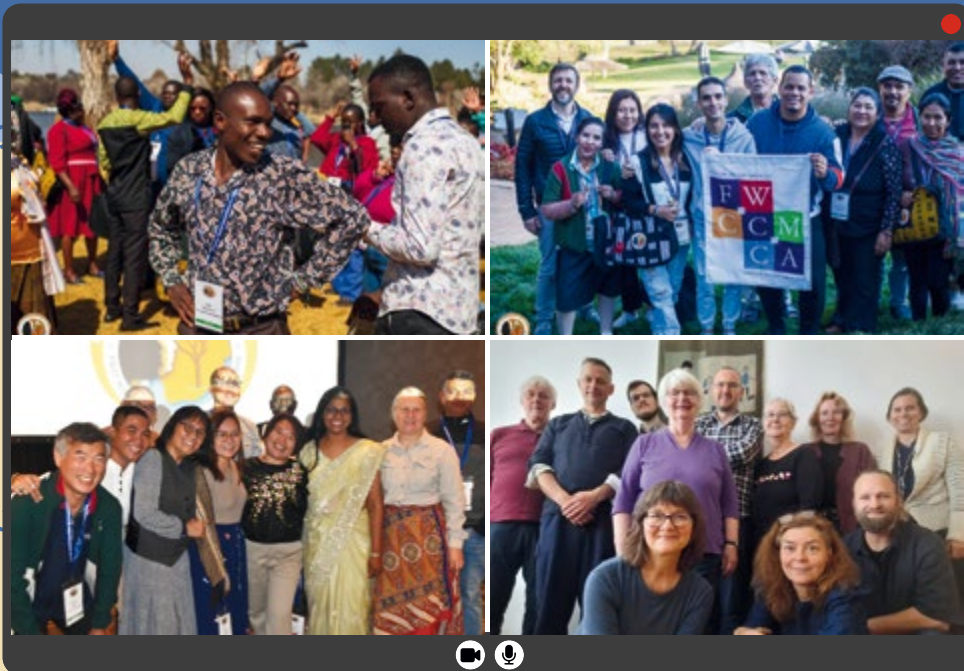
Keith Chopping



Let Peace Be Among Us

World Quaker Day | 4 October 2026

Global Online Meeting for Worship



Join Friends across borders, time zones and Quaker traditions in worship and prayer for peace.

Please save the date and start talking with your local meeting about joining online as a group.

Find out more at www.worldquakerday.org



Woodbrooke continues to offer a rich programme of learning and research, both online and in person, supporting Friends in deepening faith, practice and witness.

In January, we were delighted to welcome the first cohort onto our refreshed **Equipping for Ministry (EfM)** programme. This two-year journey, long valued as a core part of Woodbrooke's ministry, has returned in a renewed format combining online and in-person learning. It has been heartening to see Friends already engaging deeply with the programme. Details of how to join the next EfM cohort will be shared this summer and we warmly encourage those who feel led to consider taking part.

In February, we announced our programme of courses for May to October 2026. From deepening spiritual practice and exploring Quaker theology to engaging with peace and social justice, and supporting those serving in meeting roles, the programme offers a wide range of opportunities for learning and reflection.

One course that may be of particular interest to Friends across FWCC EMES is **Being a Quaker Clerk: For Friends from Around the World**, running from Saturday 3 October to Saturday 24 October 2026. This online course brings Quaker clerks together across contexts to share experience and learn from one another. Further details can be found at woodbrooke.org.uk/courses.

At the beginning of May, Stuart Masters delivered this year's Swarthmore Lecture, **Tangled Roots: Navigating the Complex Legacy of Early Quakers**, at Britain Yearly Meeting. The lecture explored the

tensions within Quaker history and their relevance for Friends today. It is accompanied by a book, now available through the Quaker Bookshop, offering further opportunity for reflection. The lecture recording and information about follow-up events are available at woodbrooke.org.uk/swarthmore.

Woodbrooke's Centre for Research in Quaker Studies (CRQS) continues to thrive. More than 25 students are currently undertaking MA and PhD research through the University of Birmingham, which was ranked sixth in the UK for Theology and Religious Studies in the 2026 Guardian University Guide. This summer, three more students will celebrate their graduation.

In partnership with The Queen's Foundation, we have launched two new online modules: **Justice in Theory and Practice and The Practice of Silence and Spirituality**. These can be taken individually or combined towards a PG Cert, PG Dip, or MA in Theology and Transformative Practice. The programmes are accredited by Birmingham Newman University, ranked seventh in the UK for Theology and Religious Studies in the Guardian University Guide, and are offered at the same fee worldwide. More information is available at woodbrooke.org.uk/queens.

We also continue to host regular online Meetings for Worship in partnership with EMES, alongside a dedicated Young Adult Worship and a monthly Quaker Educators Worship held with Quaker Values in Education (QVinE). ■

To stay connected with Woodbrooke's work, subscribe to our newsletter and follow our social media channels at woodbrooke.org.uk/connect



DIARY DATES 2026

More dates are available on the website: fwccemes.org/calendar. Please send items for inclusion in the diary to michael@fwccemes.org.

Woodbrooke & EMES offer several weekly online Meetings for Worship. Please check the Woodbrooke website for the latest information: woodbrooke.org.uk/worship

EMES NOW RUNS REGULAR ONLINE EVENTS

PEACE & SERVICE CONSULTATION

Monthly gatherings for people involved in peace and service work are held on the second Thursday of each month. For more details contact julia@fwccemes.org.

EMES YOUTHGROUP

Monthly gatherings for young people aged 14-18. More details: fwccemes.org/youthgroup. Contact michael@fwccemes.org for more information.

We also hold monthly gatherings for EMES Representatives and Roleholders in the first week of each month. In January, May and September we run online gatherings for International Members in the Section. Contact michael@fwccemes.org for more information about these events.



8-15 August 2026

All Age Gathering Near Cologne, Germany

At the time of printing, this event was still scheduled to go ahead as stated. However, this may change so please check the EMES website for up to date information.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

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Among Friends 164 Deadline
1 August 2026