

Being Friends Together

Reading *Quaker faith & practice* > Autumn/Winter 2015/16 > Chapter 5: Other Quaker Groupings & Chapter 6: Yearly Meeting > Q151 Group session

Session 5 Activity Sheet 3

A Quiz - Yearly Meeting's history and purpose

This is the question and answer sheet for the quiz host. Teams will need paper and pen to note down answers.

In teams of two or three, Friends can answer the questions about yearly meeting's history, purposes and function from their own knowledge, or make guesses. (Guessing answers together can be fun – not many Friends are likely to know them all – but teams could have copies of *Qf&p* for looking up answers during the quiz if you prefer.)

Answers will be given from *Qf&p* sections 6.01 to 6.07 at the end (see pages 3 and 4 of this activity sheet for the answers).

For fun, you might like to work out which team got the most answers right at the end of the quiz!

	questions
1.	In what year was the gathering of Friends at Balby (whose letter of counsel has a postscript included at the end of our current <i>Advices & Queries</i>)?
2.	Name two places that Yearly Meeting Gathering (an event combining residential YM and summer gatherings) has taken place.
3.	In what year was the first Yearly Meeting held outside London? For a bonus point – where was it held?
4.	What was the main business of Yearly Meeting from its beginning to the middle of the nineteenth century?
5.	In what year were the following Quaker schools established: a. Ackworth b. Sidcot
6.	Match the particular concerns discussed at YM and the years: a. capital punishment b. peace in Afghanistan c. liberty of conscience d. the slave trade The years are 1842, 1783, 1856 and 1818
7.	What is the full current title of BYM?
8.	What was the principal reason that the separate Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight (for elders and recorded ministers) was laid down in 1906?

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9	What development gave rise to one Friend writing 'The Yearly Meeting will become less and less of a <i>religious</i> , and more and more of a merely <i>popular</i> , assembly'?
10.	What is the first year from which minutes of London Yearly Meeting are preserved?
11.	What was held in Bradford for the first time in 1991 in response to Friends' desire to gather in community and explore issues and activities not limited to church affairs?
12.	What year is traditionally chosen by British Friends as the date of establishment of London Yearly Meeting?
13.	In what year did London Yearly Meeting change its name to Britain Yearly Meeting and why?
14.	The separate Women's Yearly Meeting in Britain began in what year and ended in what year?
15.	What are three common items on the Yearly Meeting agenda?
16.	Name three key purposes of Yearly Meeting.

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	answers
1.	1656
2.	Two of: York (2009) Canterbury (2011) Bath (2014)
3.	1905 Leeds
4.	Consideration of answers from the quarterly meetings to queries and the 'Epistles Foreign and Domestick' sent from meetings in Britain and abroad
5.	a. 1779 b. 1808
6.	1783 slave trade 1818 capital punishment 1842 peace in Afghanistan 1856 liberty of conscience
7.	Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain
8.	To witness to equality (as part of the late 19 th century egalitarian movement, the separate hierarchy of local, area and national meetings for ministry and oversight were laid down, so the Yearly Meeting on Ministry and Oversight was laid down too)
9	When Yearly Meeting sessions were opened to all men Friends to attend as of right in 1861 (prior to that they could attend but most business was reserved to the 'Large Committee' of representatives, recorded ministers and members of Meeting for Sufferings)
10.	1672
11.	Summer Gathering
12.	1668
13.	1994 To express the identity of the yearly meeting in a more inclusive way <i>or</i> To reflect more accurately the geographical area that is covered
14.	1784 began 1907 laid down
15.	Three of the items listed in <i>Qf&p</i> 6.06 (extract reproduced below)
16.	Three of the purposes listed in the box below, or whatever the quiz host feels is an appropriate answer!

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The Yearly Meeting agenda - an extract from Qf&p [6.06](#) (Q15)

The agenda may comprise:

- a. minutes from area meetings, General Meeting for Scotland, Meeting of Friends in Wales or Young Friends General Meeting, and minutes or memoranda from standing committees appointed by Meeting for Sufferings sharing with the yearly meeting as a whole some concern;
- b. proposals for amendments to our book of discipline forwarded by Meeting for Sufferings or Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee;
- c. a report of the proceedings of Meeting for Sufferings during the year;
- d. the annual report of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and audited financial statements for the preceding year;
- e. the tabular statement;
- f. the report of the Agenda Committee;
- g. testimonies to the grace of God in the lives of deceased Friends
- h. epistles received from other yearly meetings and other Friends' bodies;
- i. subjects initiated by the Agenda Committee;
- j. the report of the Quaker Stewardship Committee

Purposes of Yearly Meeting (Q16)

- to see one another's faces
- to receive the annual reports of Meeting for Sufferings, Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees and other committees
- to scrutinise and affirm the work done in the name of Friends in our meetings and by our standing committees and staff
- to lay matters of concern before the yearly meeting for divine guidance, testing or decision
- to inform and educate us, as a meeting for learning
- to agree constitutional changes and amendments to our book of discipline
- to strengthen our witness as a religious society and encourage us in our living of the testimonies
- to refresh our spiritual life as individuals and corporately
- to praise, give thanks to God, and celebrate
- to settle policy on major areas of work or witness
- to offer inspiration and leadership
- to re-dedicate ourselves
- to call us to action
- creating and sustaining a community, in our meetings and in Britain Yearly Meeting as a whole, including those both under and over nineteen

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