

# Being Friends Together

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## Knowing Each Other in the Things that are Eternal...and Everyday – pathway introduction

### Introduction

How can we make the meeting a community in which each person is accepted and nurtured, and strangers are welcome? Seek to know one another in the things which are eternal, bear the burden of each other's failings and pray for one another. As we enter with tender sympathy into the joys and sorrows of each other's lives, ready to give help and to receive it, our meeting can be a channel for God's love and forgiveness.

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What does being Quaker mean for us as individuals and as a community? The way we welcome strangers or newcomers to our meeting, the ways we share our Quakerism, organise our meeting community, use the place where we meet and reach out to the wider community all speak of our deepest values and Quaker faith. Equally, reaching out to one another in friendship *within* our meeting, seeking to know one another both in the eternal and the everyday aspects of our lives, is vitally important if our community is to be a place of life and grace. We know as Friends that an afternoon spent baking for an event and talking about home and family may be as profound and spiritual as worship sharing or conversations about spiritual life. Both 'eternal' and 'everyday' approaches feature throughout this pathway – the combination of them can enrich your community and help you to build a culture of welcome and 'tender sympathy' in your meeting.

### Steps:

1. Getting to Know Each Other
2. Being Quaker: what does it mean for us?
3. Inreach and Outreach
4. Different Expressions of Quaker Community
5. Our Ministry in the Wider Community
6. Knowing Each Other in the Things that are Eternal...and Everyday

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Being Friends Together is a joint project of Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre (Registered Charity Number: 313816) and Britain Yearly Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) (Registered charity number: 112763).

