



North Scotland

Residential Quaker Meeting

Pluscarden, 25 - 27st August 2023

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Hello! We look forward to welcoming you to this year's residential weekend for Friends of all ages, which will be held in the peaceful surroundings of Pluscarden Abbey, and the nearby Pluscarden Village Hall. The focus for the weekend is on building Quaker connections; sharing time in worship, sharing activity and social time and sharing our joys and concerns.

Among other things we will consider the call to make Ecocide a crime against humanity, and pick up some of the threads from Peace At The Heart - the Quakers in Britain report calling for a comprehensive approach to education and learning that puts good relationships at its centre. We will also consider options on the future of North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting.

There will be a programme for younger Friends and our worship on Sunday will be inclusive for all ages, so families and Friends of all ages are welcome.

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Now for more practical information about the weekend:

We are living with Covid-19 and many other infectious ailments and our safeguard against spreading illness amongst us will be good hygiene and not attending the gathering if you feel at all unwell with cold-like symptoms. Anyone who has booked on but can not attend for health reasons will be reimbursed.

The monks at Pluscarden follow the practice of silence at most times and it is hoped visitors will be as quiet as possible within the precincts of the Abbey.

Directions: The Abbey is situated in a picturesque valley 7 miles from Elgin (on the Dallas road), 9 miles from Forres and much of our activity will be in the neighbouring St Scholastica's building and the nearby village hall. The postcode for the Abbey is IV30 8TZ. For the village hall: IV30 8UB. If you are travelling by public transport we can arrange for you to be met in Forres or Elgin.

If you would like to bring a reading, poem, song, musical instrument or game to add to the Friday or Saturday nights, please let us know so that we can add it to the programme.

Other than times when there is a programmed event for Young Friends, children will be the responsibility of their parents and guardians.

Our (not for profit) charges cover a donation to the Abbey, meals and hire of the Village Hall. Nobody should be prevented from coming to Pluscarden for financial reasons as bursary help is available.

Meals and accommodation

Meals (Friday dinner to Sunday lunch) are mainly vegetarian/vegan and included in the residential charges, but additional contributions to meals and snacks would be most welcome. Please let us know if you have any dietary requirements and if you are bringing contributions to meals.

There will be opportunities to help with practical tasks through the weekend, from setting up for meals, washing up and tidying at the end of the weekend

Accommodation is available at Pluscarden Abbey. Please book early to ensure a place. Men and older boys can stay in St Benedict's guest house in the Abbey. St Scholastica's provides women's accommodation in single rooms. The men's accommodation is all on the first and second floors and there are no lifts. St. Scholastica's is single-storey with level access. The grounds are unlit at night so please bring a torch.

Camping is an option, using the facilities at St Scholastica's.

B&B is available in Pluscarden, Elgin or Forres. Information can be found at www.visitscotland.com.

There is parking near the accommodation and at the Village Hall, which is three quarters of a mile away from the Abbey.

Dogs, smoking and alcohol can not be accommodated.

Programme for the Weekend

Friday

5 pm onwards	Arrivals and tea/supper (a movable feast from 6pm) at St Scholastica's
7:50	Office of Compline in the Chapel – Friends are welcome – or;
7:50-8:50	Short Meeting for Worship followed by worship sharing with Advices & Queries
9:00-9:30	Introduction to the weekend, our hosts, and Epilogue

Saturday

7:30-8:00 am	Meeting for Worship	
8:00	Breakfast (self-catering – supplies provided)	
9:15-9:30	Meeting for Worship in the Village Hall.	Youth programme at St Scholastica's
9:30-10:30	Area Meeting - Practical ways forward	
10:30-11:00	Break, refreshments	
11:00-1:00 pm	Should we support the campaign to make ecocide an international crime?	
1:00 pm	Lunch at St Scholastica's	
2:30-3:30	The Future of Area Meeting - building resilience	Youth programme at St Scholastica's
3:00	Break, refreshments	
4:00-5:30	"Peace at the heart" - what can we learn to put good relationships at the centre of our living?	
6:15	Evening meal at St Scholastica's	
7:50	Compline / Social time	
9:00-9:30	Epilogue at St Scholastica's	

Sunday

7:30-8:00 am	Meeting for Worship	
8:00	Breakfast (self-catering – supplies provided)	
9:30-10:00	Meeting for Worship in the Village Hall.	Youth programme at St Scholastica's
10:00-10:45	Threads from Yearly Meeting - connecting with BYM	
10:45-11:15	Break, refreshments	
11:15-12:15	All-age Meeting for Worship at Village Hall	
12:30 pm	Lunch - then cleaning up, laundry etc - all help appreciated...	

BOOKING FORM

Name

Tel.....

Address

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email

Weekend - in residence

	Adults £60	1 st child £15	2 nd child £7.50	others free
Number				
Cost				

Weekend - camping

	Adults £30	1 st child £10	2 nd child £5	others free
Number				
Cost				

Day visitors

	Adults £10/day			1 st child £5/day			2 nd child £5			others free		
Day	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su	Fr	Sa	Su
Number												
Cost												

Donation to Bursary Fund

TOTAL PAYABLE

Payment method: Bank transfer / Cheque¹

Meals: Please indicate below the number of each meal required

	Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
Friday			
Saturday			
Sunday			

I will bring a made-up dish [] (specify if possible, what it is, how many portions and on what day)

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Other dietary requirements?

¹ delete as appropriate

BOOKING - Before 2nd AUGUST, please!

Please send this form, cheques (if this payment method is used) queries and offers of help to

Phyllida Sayles

saraps99@gmail.com

Heath Cottage, Dunnet, Thurso, KW14 8YD

Payments, ideally by bank transfer please:

North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting

sort code: 80-12-08

account no.: 00420376

Reference the transfer with your surname followed by "Plus"

Cheques, if necessary, made payable to "North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting"

We will try to accept late bookings where possible, but appreciate receiving them as early as possible - Thank you !