



North Scotland

Residential Quaker Meeting

Pluscarden, 29th – 31st August 2025

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. We will share time in worship, share activity and social time and share our joys and concerns.

The theme this year is How do we Move Forward as a Thriving All-Age Community with a Meaningful Future?

We hope to be supported in our discussions by two or three Young Friends from across Scotland. There will be sessions in the Village Hall, and at the same time, an outdoors activities programme for Friends of all ages, and our worship on Sunday will also be inclusive for all ages, all are welcome.

Now for more practical information about the weekend:

We are living with Covid and many other infectious ailments and to safeguard against spreading illness amongst us we ask that we all keep good hygiene. This includes not attending the gathering if you feel unwell, especially with cold-like symptoms. Anyone who has booked but cannot 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 (Friday dinner to Sunday lunch) are 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. Please ensure all contributions are clearly labelled with ingredients.

There will be opportunities to help with practical tasks through the weekend, from setting up for meals, and washing up to 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 ground floor with level access. If you any queries before booking, please do get in touch. 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 cannot be accommodated in the Abbey premises.

AM Planning Group

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 Abbey Chapel – Friends are welcome. <i>Or</i> - in St Scholastica's – short worship, followed by an optional “Show and Tell” - an opportunity to bring an object, a poem, song, quotation that is meaningful to you, and to share its story and meaning to you with us.	
8.45	Welcome, Introduction to the weekend, and Epilogue when Friends return from the Abbey	
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.	Outdoor and activities programme
9:30-10:30	Area Meeting	
10:30-11:00	Break, refreshments	
11:00-12.30	Connections Game, followed by open session for discussion/worship sharing	
1:00 pm	Lunch at St Scholastica's	
2:30-3:30	Session with Young Friends	Outdoor and activities programme
3:00	Break, refreshments	
4:00-5:30	Session with Young Friends	
6:15	Evening meal at St Scholastica's	
7:50	Compline / Social time, games, music	
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)	
9:30-10:30	What have we heard? What has inspired us? Worship sharing	Outdoor options
10:30-11:00	Break, refreshments	
11:00-12:00	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

.....

.....

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			

PTO

¹ delete as appropriate

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

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Dietary requirements, including any allergies or intolerances

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We would not want anyone to be unable to come for financial reasons. If you would like to apply for a bursary please indicate here [] or contact one of the Pastoral and Spiritual Care team.

BOOKING - As soon as possible. 4th AUGUST at the latest, please!

Please send this form, queries and offers of help to

Lynden Easterbrook

lydeneasterbrook@hotmail.com

9 Knockomie Gardens, Forres, IV36 2TN

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" and attach to this form

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