

East Cheshire Quaker Meeting
To be held as a blended meeting at Wilmslow Meeting House
Saturday 14 March 2026 at 10.30 am

Agenda

1. Friends present
2. Reading
3. Caring for Friends
4. Application for membership: report on visit with Clare Finnis
5. Transfer of membership: Nik Taylor
We have received a certificate of transfer of membership from Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting for Nik Taylor who now attends Cheadle Hulme Meeting.
6. Marple Meeting: new local meetings for Friends previously associated with Marple Meeting
Members previously associated with Marple Meeting have informed us that they now wish to be associated with local meetings as follows:
Disley Meeting: Ian Parker;
Glossop Worship Group: Kathleen Russell;
Macclesfield Meeting: Bou Mowl;
Stockport Meeting: Hilary Brooks, Julia Clements, Jeremy Dale, Sue Pounder, Maggie Willett.
The following Friends have not yet decided or wish not to be attached to a local meeting:
Trevor Bending, Eleni Burgess, William Harris.
We have not yet heard from Paul Clark, Shirley Heathcote, Barbara Herden, Ann Meryl Rowlinson, Melvin Samuel.
7. Area Meeting trustees
We have received the minutes of the meeting of Trustees held on 26 February (circulated with this agenda).
8. Proposed financial contributions from local meetings to Area Meeting in 2026
The Area Meeting treasurer has proposed the following schedule of contributions from local meetings in 2026:

	Members and active attenders	2026 scheduled contribution
Cheadle Hulme	13	£657
Crewe & Nantwich	8	£404
Disley	42	£2,122
Frandlely	31	£1,566
Macclesfield	8	£404
Stockport	26	£1,314
Wilmslow	35	£1,769
Total	163	£8,236

9. Meeting for Sufferings: report from meeting held 7 March 2026
Keith Braithwaite will give a spoken report. A written report will follow.
10. Results of the survey regarding the role of a Children and Young People's Development Worker for the Northwest
Circulated with this agenda.
11. Yealand Easter Camp: appointment of an additional responsible adult
Frances Hill will be an additional responsible adult for the Yealand Easter Camp.
12. Area Meeting weekend at Leeds in October: report from planning group
Wilmslow Friends will provide lunch after the business meeting

After lunch (at about 1.30 pm) we will have the session we decided on to explore issues arising out of our November 2025 Business Meeting regarding the Britain Yearly Meeting response to the war in Gaza and perceived antisemitism amongst British Friends. In the last week the Israel/United States attack on Iran has highlighted these issues.

It is proposed that we use this time reflect on our understanding of antisemitism, our experiences of antisemitism and how this affects our responses to the Israel/Gaza conflict, the situation on the West Bank and the present conflict in the Middle East.

Useful resources are:

- the guide *Challenging antisemitism* recently published by Britain Yearly Meeting which was circulated with the provisional agenda, although some Friends have been critical of this document (see for example various postings on the Quaker Socialist Society website <https://quakersocialists.org.uk/>);
- the definitions of antisemitism by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (<https://holocaustremembrance.com/resources/working-definition-antisemitism>) and the Jerusalem Declaration on Antisemitism (<https://jerusalemdeclaration.org/>);
- information about various Jewish groups proposing a positive response to the Israel/Palestine conflict, such as *Na'amod*: (<https://naamod.org.uk/who-we-are/>) *Yachad* (<https://yachad.org.uk/about/>) and *Standing Together* (www.standing-together.org/en/about-en).

Papers circulated with the agenda

Minutes of Area Meeting Trustees held 26 February 2026

Results from the Children and Young People's Development Worker for the North West Survey