

Journeys in the Spirit



Get ready for Quaker Week

September 2023

Quaker Week



Each year Quakers in Britain have a [week](#) dedicated to exploring new ways to share their stories and strengthen their faith. In 2023, Quaker Week will run from 23 September to 1 October. This year's theme is Simple. Radical. Spiritual.

Radical History

In the mid-17th century, Quakerism emerged as people looked for change in their religion, politics, and society. The first Quaker preachers began sharing their message in the North of England and eventually gained followers who were intrigued by their radical beliefs.

As Quakerism took shape, significant beliefs emerged. It was believed that everyone could hear God's voice without the need for a priest and that everyone has a divine spark within them and should be treated with respect and dignity. They also believed that there was no need for churches, rituals, holy days, or sacraments. These ideas were quite different from the ideas of the time, and as a result, many Quakers were unfairly punished and even jailed for their radical faith.

["Your faith is more than what you do on a Sunday morning – it's going out and living it".](#)

Watch [this](#) video with older children and hear how a group of young adults talk about how they live out their faith. Does anything sound familiar? How would the children talk about their Quakerism?

Let's explore the Quaker way

[This familiar book](#) explores Quaker values and is a starting point for conversations with all ages. You can download the book or order [copies](#). Read the book with children and identify which of the pictures connect to each value. The children could make their own version of the Let's explore or [Quaker meeting and me](#) books.

Wondering Questions

One of the most effective methods for engaging with children and young people is to ask questions that spark curiosity. To do this, start your questions with the phrase "I wonder..." After reading *Let's explore the quaker way*, wonder:

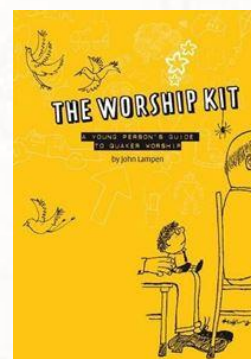
"I wonder, when we go out into the world, how can we use what we've learned?"

"I wonder if you were to tell your friends about being a Quaker, how would you do it?"

"I wonder if your friends were coming to meeting, what would you like to tell them about it before they arrived?"

The Worship Kit

The book "*The Worship Kit*" by John Lampen is a helpful resource for children to enhance their experience of Quaker worship. It offers guidance on settling into the silence, connecting with others, and meditating. It may be in your meeting house library or from [The Quaker Bookshop](#)



Make

A chatterbox for children was created in 2016 to help children talk, think, and learn about the Quaker faith. It includes words from Quaker children who express what is important to them.



Ask the children, what they would write on a chatterbox if they were to make one. You can then follow [these](#) instructions to create Quaker chatterboxes with the children, which they can play with their friends and family. These chatterboxes are available to [order](#) and can be shared in meetings or as part of outreach efforts.

Favourite Things

Raindrops on roses and whiskers on kittens,
Bright copper kettles and warm woollen mittens,
Brown paper packages tied up with strings...
These are a few of my favourite things.



In *The Sound of Music's* famous song, Julie Andrews lists everything she loves. Talk with the children about their favourite things, then make acrostic pictures using their names.

Then ask the children what their favourite things about Quakers are and make a badge or poster using Quaker for an acrostic.



Just a minute

The object of this game is to talk for sixty seconds on a given subject, "without hesitation, repetition or deviation". This game might help children feel confident in talking about Quakers.

For a fun version of [the radio show](#) challenge, invite children to share their favourite things about being a Quaker for an agreed time (start with 30 seconds). Encourage the children, in turns to begin and continue speaking on the topic until they hesitate or repeat themselves. At that point, move on to the next child. The winner is the one who successfully speaks for the entire 30 seconds. This game is more suited to older children.

Sing



[This song](#), "*This Little Light of Mine*," encourages us to share our light with others. You can find this version on the "*Sing Me on a Journey*" playlist on YouTube. For more inspirational songs, download the "*Sing me on a Journey*" [resource](#).

Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you come, that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in everyone.

Quaker Faith and Practice 19.3



