

Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire

Held at Malton Friends Meeting House, 15 July 2017

Representatives

Brighouse West Yorkshire: Ann Banks

Central Yorkshire Area Meeting: Denise Stimson

Craven & Keighley Area Meeting: David Olver, George Penaluna, Chris Petrie, Alison Tyas

Leeds Area Meeting: Audrey Acton, Robert Keeble, Una Parker, Barbara Parry, Pete Redwood

Pickering & Hull Area Meeting: Helen Clark, Brian Fellowes, Chris Fellowes Annabel May, Diana Sandy

Sheffield & Balby Area Meeting: June Lewis

York Area Meeting: Hilary Evens, Nicholas Evens, Ann Holt, Barbara Penny, Roger Pierce, David Rubinstein

Visitors from Quakers in North East England (QUINEE): Richard Waldmeyer, Teesdale and Cleveland AM; Barbara Adshead, Northumbria AM; Ann Brown, Wensleydale and Swaledale AM.

QiY 17/07/01 Reading

In our opening worship we have heard part of section 12.01 of Quaker Faith and Practice.

QiY 17/07/02 Testimony – Geoffrey Morris

We have heard read part of a testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend Geoffrey Malcolm Morris. This was accepted by Pickering and Hull Area Meeting on 8th July 2017. We endorse the testimony and thank the Friends who prepared it.

QiY 17/07/03 Co-Clerk

In the absence of Arthur Pritchard, we are grateful to David Olver for acting as Co-clerk for this meeting.

QiY 17/07/04 Welcome

We have been warmly welcomed to Malton Meeting House by the Clerk, Roger Mattingly, who has given us some of the history of Friends' meetings in the town.

QiY 17/07/05 Elders

We thank Chris Newsam and John Woods for offering to serve as elders for today's gathering.

QiY 17/07/06 Annual Report from Glenthorne Trustees

Roy Love has spoken to the report from Glenthorne Quaker Guest House at Grasmere. In 2016 Glenthorne continued to have good support from groups, with regular visits from Quaker meetings and a good take-up for the programmes of courses and events. Eleven Quaker meetings or Quaker groups and 35 other charitable organisations arranged their own conferences or events during the year. There were 23 successful special interest courses organised. An increasing number of families or friends have used Glenthorne as a venue for reunions or celebrations. 2016 was a busy year with 7,099 occupied bed-nights.

Bursary assistance enabled 23 adults and 7 children to benefit from a stay at Glenthorne, while the Welcome Project allowed 65 men, women and children, refugees from 14 countries, to have greatly appreciated respite breaks at Glenthorne.

Total incoming resources were £467,815 and total resources expended were £416,232, creating a net surplus of £51,583. Thus it was a good year financially.

The report is attached to the minutes. We thank Roy Love for the report.

QiY 17/07/07 Annual Reports and Accounts from QiY Trustees

The annual report and accounts of Quakers in Yorkshire for 2016 has been introduced by Barbara Windle, Clerk of Trustees.

A summary of the report and accounts has been distributed today and the full report and accounts will be on the QiY website when the formal examination is complete. Both are attached to the minutes.

2016 was another active year for Quakers in Yorkshire and the report shows that it continues to fulfil a valuable function. It carries out the responsibilities that come with significant financial assets and it keeps living links with the various Quaker institutions founded in our region. It provides opportunities for young people to feel part of a wider Quaker community and it strengthens awareness of the breadth of Quaker work and fellowship across all our meetings, small or large.

Financially 2016 had a total income of £59,395 and total expenditure of £72,904. The deficit was taken out of the reserves which still increased in value due to gains on investments. Most of the total reserves of £640,063 are endowments where the capital is preserved according to the wishes of the donors.

We have heard of concern that the endowments are very large and some ought to be spent. We are reassured that Trustees have considered the matter. They emphasise that the endowment funds are for the long term so that there can be support for the needs of Quakers in Yorkshire in the future.

Trustees remind us that they welcome requests from meetings for funds to be spent from the £31,500 bequest from the Adult School Union. This is an opportunity for projects to assist sharing and caring in our meetings. The aim is to spend the bequest over 10 years. Requests should be made to the Clerk of Trustees.

We thank Barbara Windle for the report.

QiY 17/07/08 Sharing and Caring

We have welcomed Richard Waldmeyer (Teesdale and Cleveland AM), Ann Brown (Wensleydale and Swaledale AM) and Barbara Adshead (Northumbria AM) whose area meetings form Quakers in North East England (QUiNEE), formerly Durham General Meeting. Our purpose in this session is to share the concerns facing us.

David Olver gave an overview of the development of Quaker activity in the county of Yorkshire since Quakers first met in 1651. By 1665 there was an initial grouping, to be succeeded some time later by regular quarterly meetings. These meetings had three purposes:

- Worship
- Sharing
- Caring.

There were many changes and reorganisations over the years, some of which seemed slightly anomalous. In Quakers in Yorkshire (QiY) there are currently 39 local meetings and seven area meetings. The changing profile of Friends has been significant: from a position where there were very many birthright Quakers, Friends are now mostly convinced. So our quarterly meetings are more important to join us together. Examples of initiatives nationally to increase activity are the Young Adults Project and the Vibrancy Project.

Richard Waldmeyer advised us that large parts of QUiNEE are physically in Yorkshire. Durham Quarterly Meeting started about the same time as Yorkshire Quarterly Meeting. The minute book starts in 1671 and continues until 1967 when it became Durham General Meeting. Four or five monthly meetings in the original Quarterly Meeting became condensed to two, Darlington and Newcastle, but boundaries tended to be fluid with monthly meetings joining the Quarterly Meeting for individual reasons. There are records of coming to Quarterly Meetings by boat and fish cart!

At the time of the laying down of Durham General Meeting in 2009, major business aspects were Great Ayton School, the summer school; and the Reith School Trust. Responsibilities for these were delegated to the area meetings.

Quakers in North East England replaced the General Meeting and the three AMs take turns in hosting the annual meeting, whose purpose is to enable Friends to see one another's faces and to focus on some spiritual concern. Subjects include the celebration of Quaker Faith and Practice and Reflective and Restorative Practice in Schools. In addition there are informal meetings between the three AMs and significant cooperation on appointments to posts.

We heard from other Friends present today that there can be challenges with the particular aspects on which time has to be spent, such as how to organise local and area meetings to encourage more Friends to come, the money required to refurbish meetings houses and significant events, such as the Hexham Debates. But we have been reminded of the great value that refurbishment can achieve, such as making a meeting house available to non-Friends and we should not underestimate this aspect.

George Fox's very early visit to Malton was in 1651, prior to his visit to Pendle Hill in 1652, so Malton claims to be the first established meeting in the country.

We heard about the Vibrancy in Meetings Pilot Project and expertise that is available nationally (such as for upgrading meetings houses) although there is little in the way of networks to make this known. The Kindlers are active in Yorkshire as are Experiments with Light groups and these means of sharing are invaluable.

Increasing age is a factor of which we need to be aware. A view was expressed that this suggests an even greater need to work together. How do we maintain vibrancy? The value of sharing with Friends 'across boundaries' and from elsewhere in the UK and overseas was emphasised by different Friends present. We need to make our meetings fun and to enthuse people.

We thank our visitors for sharing their experiences with us, and all Friends for their contributions to a worthwhile exchange of views.

QiY 16/07/09 Appointments

Nominations for appointment are brought to us as follows.

From Pickering and Hull Area Meeting

Diana Sandy (Beverley) to serve a second term on QiY Nominations Committee from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2020.

From QiY Nominations Committee

The Mount

Jill Tinsley (Harrogate) to serve on The Mount School Committee from now to 31 December 2020.

Nicola Spence to serve as co-opted member on The Mount School Committee until 31 December 2017 and then as representative of the Mount Old Scholars' Association from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2021.

Alice Malvezzi Campeggi (nee Unwin) to serve a second term on The Mount School Committee from 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2021.

Easter Settlement

Helen Brockley (Huddersfield) to serve as Treasurer of Easter Settlement from July 2017 to July 2020.

The Retreat Nominations Committee

Under their new governance arrangements, Quakers in Yorkshire are asked to nominate Friends to serve on The Retreat Nominations Committee. We nominate Friends originally appointed by Meeting for Sufferings as follows:

- Peter Allen-Williams (Lincolnshire AM) to serve for 2018
- Shirley Torrens (Staffordshire AM) to serve for 2018 and 2019
- Jennifer Maclennan (Lancashire Central and North AM) to serve for 2018, 2019 and 2020.

These names being acceptable, the Friends are duly appointed. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

QiY 16/07/10 Closing Minute

We thank Malton Friends for their very warm welcome and hospitality today as well as for the months of work that have gone into preparing for our visit. We hope to meet again at Bootham School, York on Saturday 21st October, God willing.

Chris Love Co Clerk
David Olver, Co-Clerk this time