

Quakers in Yorkshire

Newsletter

including

News, views and events from local
and area meetings in Yorkshire



Annual QiY Calendar



Programme for QiY meeting

at

Oxford Place, Leeds

Saturday 20 January 2018



Activities for children and young people;
childcare available for infants if notified
in advance

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter January 2018

All Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news of their interests and activities for inclusion in the QiY newsletter, which is published four times a year, ahead of QiY quarterly meetings. **We also appreciate receiving in advance the names of AM representatives to QiY.**

Deadline for contributions to the April issue 16 March 2018

Hard copies of the newsletter, including the programme for each meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know if your meeting needs more or fewer copies.

The newsletter is also sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. Please could recipients ensure that hard copies are made available to Friends who do not have Internet access? If any Friend would like to receive personal copies directly, please inform the co-clerks.

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Quakers in Yorkshire Website *quakersinyorkshire.org.uk*

Please let the clerks know if you see any errors relating to your meeting or if there is any item you would like to include here.

Have your meeting's contact details changed? We always need up-to-date email and telephone details of local and area meeting clerks. Under Data Protection QiY cannot receive personal details from other parts of the Religious Society of Friends. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

The Quakers in Yorkshire Calendar for 2018 forms the centre pages of this newsletter. It will not be circulated separately but if you need a paper or email copy please contact QiY clerks.

2018 Book of Members and Attenders

David Olver

The 2018 Quakers in Yorkshire Book of Members and Attenders is on schedule to be ready in the New Year. Compiling the Book is a rewarding task which includes pleasure as well as being a significant undertaking: pleasure because I get to interact with the Friends who do the real, challenging work in our 39 local meetings. They have the challenge of compiling the lists of those who attend meetings and give their consent to be in the Book.

For many decades, QiY and its predecessors, has been publishing the Book every three years. It used to be printed as a small, compact but fat book. Now we try to get as much information as possible, readably, on to an A5 page. There is often a lot of work converting the local lists, which come in many different formats, into the QiY house style. It takes time but the results are hopefully rewarding - if Yorkshire Friends find it useful - as sales seem to indicate you do.

The Book contains the names of those who attend meeting. It is not an official membership register. The definition as to who to include is left to each local meeting because local circumstances differ. There is no formal definition of what we mean by an Attender.

This year local meetings have paid particular attention to ensuring that the data complies with the new General Data Protection Regulations which come into law next May. These emphasise what was implicit in the current regulations, namely that each person has to give consent as to how their data is used. Some Friends choose to have only their names printed, others to show limited contact details.

York Friargate Survey

David Rubinstein

I am currently undertaking a survey of York Friargate meeting which is, I believe, the largest, or one of the largest, Quaker meetings in the country. I have asked members and attenders to state anonymously their age by decade, gender, education level, marital status, current occupational status (including where relevant retired), present occupation or main occupation before retirement, leisure or recreational interests, political preference and religious views. I hope that when the responses are in and analysed there will be an article in the York Area newsletter Quakevine and perhaps in The Friend. I also hope that other local meetings may wish to undertake similar surveys.

Friends' House Moscow

A Visit by Susan Clarkson

I first visited Russia in 2014. At the time I was living in Oxford and took part in two twinning visits to the city of Perm in the Ural region. In 2016 I returned to Perm with a friend and we took a river trip on the Kama River to Kazan. Later that year I joined a small group of activists from the U.S. and we visited Moscow and Saint Petersburg, meeting and talking to people, including Quakers in Moscow, concerned about the worsening situation between Russia and the West.

Soon after my return in 2014 I attended a conference at Woodbrooke Study Centre on Quakers in Russia, exploring their history and meeting the two Russian staff members from Friends' House Moscow, as well as British and American members of the FHM Board. In 2016 I was asked to join the Board and in October 2017 I attended my first Board meeting and attended two Meetings for Worship with Russian Friends during the visit to Moscow.

FHM helps to support projects which further peace and non-violence, such as the Alternatives to Violence Project in Ukraine and a project which offers support to young men seeking alternatives to military service. Other projects are a refugee school in Moscow and a centre to support the educational needs of young people in care, also in Moscow. We visited both projects before our Board meeting.

FHM also enables the translation into Russian of core Quaker writings and texts specifically about peace and non-violence. We met a young academic who is working on the evolution of pacifism in the Russian Empire and the Soviet Union, 1900-1937. She focuses particularly on Tolstoyan ideas recorded in the archives she is indexing.

I am hoping to put together a presentation about the work of FHM and to offer talks to interested groups. If any Meeting would like me to come and talk I should be happy to do so. This could be a short presentation after a Meeting or something more detailed.

Finally, FHM has a website, and a Facebook page which is well worth following as it often gives reports on activism in Russia and updates on the projects supported by FHM.

www.friendshousemoscow.org srsusanclarkson@gmail.com

LOOKING AHEAD

Quarterly meeting of QiY: at Hull QMH on Saturday 21 April

The theme of our April gathering will be **Quakers in the World**. Our morning session will be led by Simon Lamb of Ireland Yearly Meeting, Clerk of Friends World Committee for Consultation. We hope to hear also from Quaker World Relations Committee. In the afternoon we hope to hear Yorkshire Friends speak about Quaker overseas projects including the Quaker Congo Partnership, Alternatives to Violence Project in Namibia and an account of Quaker work in Ghana.

Quarterly meeting of QiY: at Ackworth School on Saturday 21 July

Dr. Karen Abi-Ezzi, Lecturer in Peace Studies at the University of Bradford, will help us untangle the complex politics of the Middle East.

LOOKING BACK

Much interest was generated by Kevin Bales' talk on Contemporary Slavery at our meeting at Bootham in October. Misan Kakayor, a Bootham college student wrote the following review:

[In October, Quakers in Yorkshire heard] a talk by Kevin Bales, Professor of Contemporary Slavery at Nottingham University. The audience consisted mostly of senior Quakers, parents, teachers and a handful of students.

He was a brilliant speaker, and quickly I was wrenched from my blissfully ignorant state as a bucket of ice-cold reality was poured down my back. I was more than shocked to hear that slavery still exists in the world today in the cruel, abusive and lethal way that it did before (slave-masters with whips and all) - perhaps even worse as people are cheaper now (imagine your whole family being bought for 10 packets of 180g Doritos). And cheap equals disposable. A human life, which is usually considered invaluable, was suddenly disposable.

Kevin also showed us the devastating effects these actions have on our environment, touching on government-protected reserves that are illegally dug out into quarries; deforestation in the Amazon to make charcoal, destroying some of the world's largest carbon sinks; and the panning for gold using mercury in Ghana, polluting the water source used by villages downstream.

But the mood was lifted when we heard the efforts to conquer both of

these major issues taking place in the Amazon, where ex-slaves and ex-slave-owners are replanting the Amazon, aiming to restore it to its former glory which their grandparents told them of.

I was given much to think about...how could I not be disturbed by these events? The everyday choices I make and the things I do affect these people. How could I help? What can we do? These were questions that I'm sure plagued the minds of everyone in that room when, as is the custom of Quakers, the meeting ended in silence.

If you missed this excellent presentation you might like to look at one of Kevin's more recent talks online:

<http://falling-walls.com/videos/Kevin-Bales-10661>

'Humbled & exhilarated': Quakers and the 1947 Nobel Peace Prize



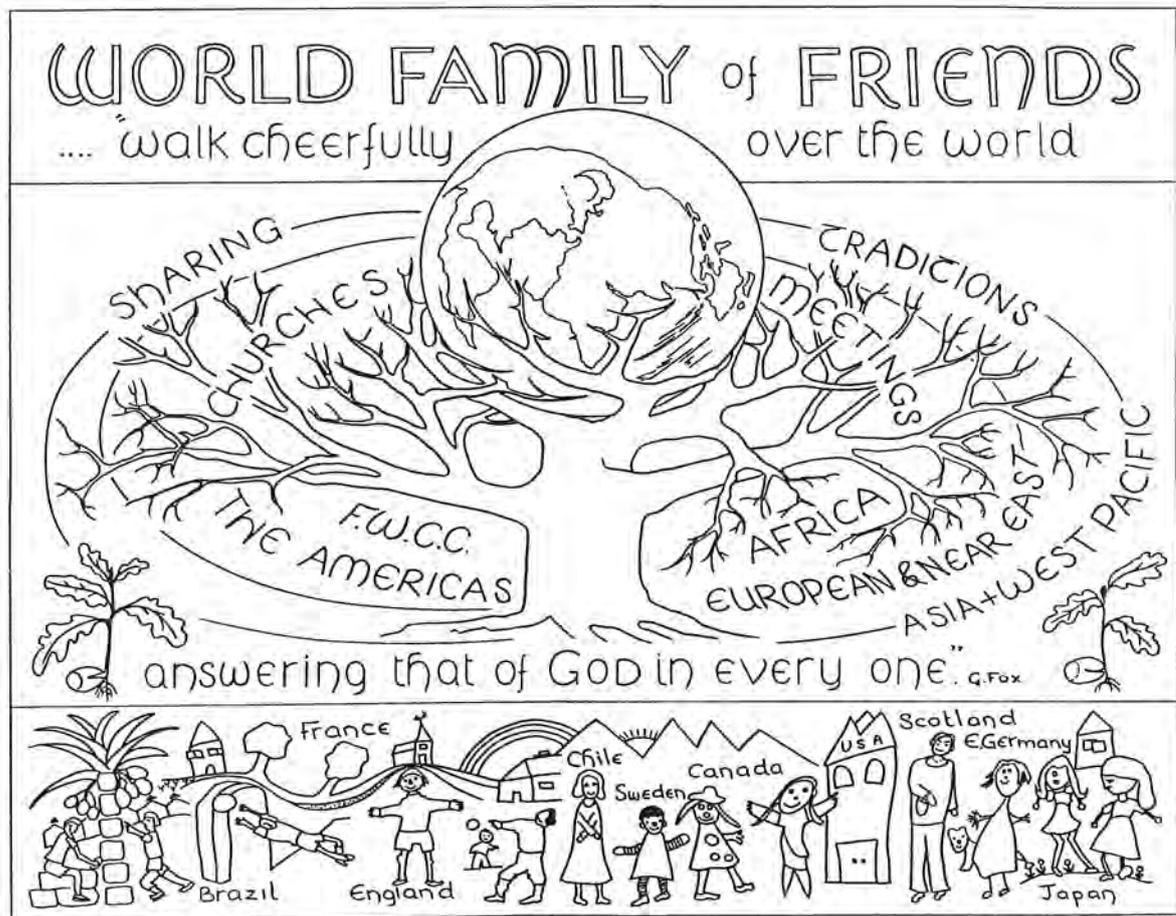
Quaker relief work during and after World War II was recognised in 1947 with a Nobel prize. Image: BYM

December 2017 marked 70 years since the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to two campaigning Quaker organisations on behalf of British and American Quakers. It was a defining moment, to be so publicly recognised on the world stage, but also one that brought up mixed feelings for many Friends. Some argued it shouldn't be accepted at all.

Lisa McQuillan tells the story behind the award on the BYM website. It continues to inspire visitors to the Library in Friends House today.

<http://www.quaker.org.uk/blog/quakers-and-the-nobel-peace-prize>

Quakers in Yorkshire Calendar 2018



Saturday 20 January 2018

Oxford Place Methodist Centre, Leeds

Saturday 21 April 2018 Hull QMH

Saturday 21 July 2018 Ackworth School

Saturday 20 October 2018 The Mount School, York

For information on Quakers in Yorkshire activities, with links
to local meetings in Yorkshire and other Quaker websites:

www.quakersinyorkshire.org.uk

email: enquiries@quakersinyorkshire.org.uk

Quakers in Yorkshire is a registered charity number 1139514

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Outreach Projects Committee (OPC) 2018

If you, your Local or Area Meeting are planning an outreach project in the coming year - a Quaker stall at a local fair, an exhibition, an enquirers workshop, or anything else, Quakers in Yorkshire have funds set aside to support outreach and inreach projects. The Outreach Projects Committee warmly welcomes applications: see the QiY website for details, or contact Annabel May, Clerk to Outreach Projects Committee *happyquaker2015@gmail.com*

The Outreach section at Friends House in London has a wealth of resources available for outreach. They also sponsor Quaker Week in October. www.quaker.org.uk/outreach

Peace Resources in (and around) Yorkshire

Northern Friends Peace Board was founded in 1913 to “advise and encourage Friends in the North...in the active promotion of peace...”

See nfpb.org.uk for events and information, or phone 01204 382330.

Peace Museum in Bradford (10 Piece Hall Yard BD1 1PJ, 01274 780241) is the only peace museum in the UK. Open Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays 10-4. www.peacemuseum.org.uk

Department of Peace Studies, University of Bradford The largest university peace studies centre in the world. www.brad.ac.uk/social-sciences/peace-studies

Commonweal Collection, University of Bradford An independent specialist library concerned with non-violent social change. See www.brad.ac.uk/library/sites-and-collections/commonweal-collection

Easter Settlement 2018

In Turbulent Times Be A Quaker

Maud Grainger & Michael Eccles

From Woodbrooke On The Road

Easter Settlement is a gathering for Friends of all ages at
Cober Hill Guest House, Cloughton, Scarborough.

Friday 30th March to Monday 2nd April
(you are welcome to stay on until Tuesday 3rd April)

Further Information contact

Pauline Leonard (0113 2786351)

pauline@paulineleonard.plus.com

or Helen Brockley (01484851366) hj.brockley@btinternet.com

Follow us on Twitter @Eastersettleme1

Application forms are available from your local Meeting Clerk
or

online at: www.quakersinyorkshire.org.uk

The Easter Settlement theme in 2018

Do you sometimes feel overwhelmed by events around the world?
Are you concerned about rising inequality and divisions in society?
Does the fear of terrorism and increasingly scarce resources due to
climate change keep you awake at night?

We will work together to explore the international situation, focusing on
particular case studies and how Quakers from the UK and around the
world are responding.

Junior Holidays 2018 (7-12 years) Two weekends are planned:

8-10 June A weekend is planned at Nell Bank, Ilkley

19-21 October At Fanwood, Gomersal, near Huddersfield

To register an interest and receive booking forms and further information
(available at end of February), please email: bronwenalty@gmail.com

Britain Yearly Meeting 2018 Will be held at Friends House, Euston Road, London from Friday 4 to Monday 8 May. More information and YM documents will be published in February 2018. www.quaker.org.uk

Leeds Area Becomes a Sanctuary Meeting

Leeds Friends have agreed to become a Sanctuary Meeting committed to building a culture of welcome, challenging racism in all its forms and helping change the laws on destitution, detention and deportation.

Pat Gerwat, Clerk to LAQM writes: 'We feel our main challenge will be working to change the prevailing negative mindset in some quarters towards asylum seeker and refugees. As a Sanctuary Meeting we will have a more powerful voice if we are campaigning together and alongside other Sanctuary Meetings. We need to get our voice heard.'

Governance arrangements at the York Schools

Over 2016-2017 the Governors of The Mount School and Bootham School have worked to revise their governance arrangements to bring them into line with current legislation and practice. Both schools adopted new 'Articles of Association' in 2017.

The present relationship between Quakers in Yorkshire (QiY) and the schools is contained in a Memorandum of Understanding which was agreed by representatives of all three parties (QiY Trustees, Bootham and The Mount) in September 2017 and later confirmed by QiY Trustees and the Schools' governing bodies. This new Memorandum, which replaces the outdated 1980s Instrument of Governance, can be found on the QiY website.

This agreement will be recorded at January's QiY meeting.

Yorkshire Kindlers: A proposal

The Kindlers are offering a Yorkshire Quaker meeting a chance to work together in an open-ended way to identify needs, achieve spiritual development, sense of community, aliveness or anything else. We would then work with you to devise a way of meeting those needs. Details of the proposal will be sent to Area and Local Meeting Clerks.

Contact James McCarthy of Acomb Meeting -
james.mccarthy90@ntlworld.com Tel. 01904 330977



THE KINDLERS

Northern Series 2018

JOURNEYING IN THE LIGHT

Workshops based in worship, with time to explore in small groups and for personal reflection.

All at Friargate Friends Meeting House, York, YO1 9RL

January 13th

Opening to New Light

exploring discernment, opening to new insights

Ann Banks & Val Bone

February 10th

Being Peace

staying grounded in the Light

Val Bone and Lynda Williams

March 10th

Encounters with the Light

illumination from within and beyond Quakers

Joy Croft & Angela Sansam

April 28th

Prayer - Connecting with the Light

exploring ways in which we may deepen our inner life

Ann Banks, Ruth McCarthy & Angela Sansam

10am for a drink, 10.30 start, finish at 4.30pm

£10 payable at the door, free drinks available during the day,
please bring your own lunch - there will be cake!

All are welcome - no pre-booking necessary

Come for one day or come to them all

<http://thekindlers.webs.com>

Recent Letter to Orange County Friends Meeting (Quakers), Irvine, Ca.

Dear Mr. William Lovett:

I am the attorney at the Quaker Oats Company responsible for trademark matters. Our company manufactures numerous food products, the most famous of which is oatmeal. We have used the Quaker Oats name for close to 100 years. The Quaker name is registered as a trademark.

We were therefore surprised to learn that you are operating a business under the name **Quaker Oats Christmas Tree Farm**. Your use of our trademark is likely to mislead consumers into believing that your business is associated with the Quaker Oats Company. It is also likely to weaken our strong trademark. In light of the foregoing, we hereby demand that you immediately stop all use of the "Quaker Oats" name... While we would like to settle this matter amicably, we will take all steps necessary and appropriate to protect our name.

Sincerely, Janet L. Silverberg, counsel

Dear Janet Silverberg:

My breakfast was interrupted today by the arrival of your letter via FedEx, delivered although you have misspelled our company name: **Quaker OAKS Christmas Tree Farm**. Our farm was so named because religious services were held outdoors under a great oak tree until about ten years ago when we were moved into our new Meetinghouse on another corner of our farm.

Our business is 100% owned and operated by Quakers. I suspect that your firm employs fewer, if any, Quakers. Our Quaker ancestors go back 320 years. They were mostly farmers, but I don't know if any grew oats for your company. I guess you may be selling more Lutheran oats, Methodist oats, or maybe atheist oats. Could your company be guilty of product source misrepresentation?

We don't know why you choose to associate your commercial products with our faith, but we suppose you feel there is some marketing value from it. If you sold machine guns, roulette wheels or other products offensive to our Quaker faith, we would be upset by the association, but since we find your products wholesome and enjoyable, we consider your use of our name a compliment. We invite you to visit us to verify that we are indeed Quaker Oaks Farm. Come in December and we'll be happy to sell you a tree!

Sincerely, William Lovett, Visalia, California

William Penn: the inspiration for Quaker Oats?



Friends will be familiar with the 1772 painting by Benjamin West of William Penn's signing of the peace treaty with the chief of the Lenape (Delaware Indians) in 1683. The painting, commissioned by Thomas, Penn's son, was widely copied and engraved, and numerous versions can be found.

The artist has dressed the Europeans in late 18th century clothes, rather than in costume of Penn's day. The second image is clearly derived from West's original. He looks younger, but the similarity to the Quaker Oats image is unmistakable.



Young Penn (image 3) was expelled from Oxford for rebelling against forced worship, so his father sent him to Paris to 'improve' him.



But Penn decided to forsake courtly society, choosing instead study at the protestant academy at Saumur under Moise Amyraut with whose theology and ideas Penn was sympathetic.

It was here that he developed some of the radical ideas that inspired the 'holy experiment' of founding the state of Pennsylvania as an ethical society offering freedom of worship to all religious groups.

Some of his political thought found its way into the American constitution and the French constitution post-revolution.

**MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE 20 Jan 2018
PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY**

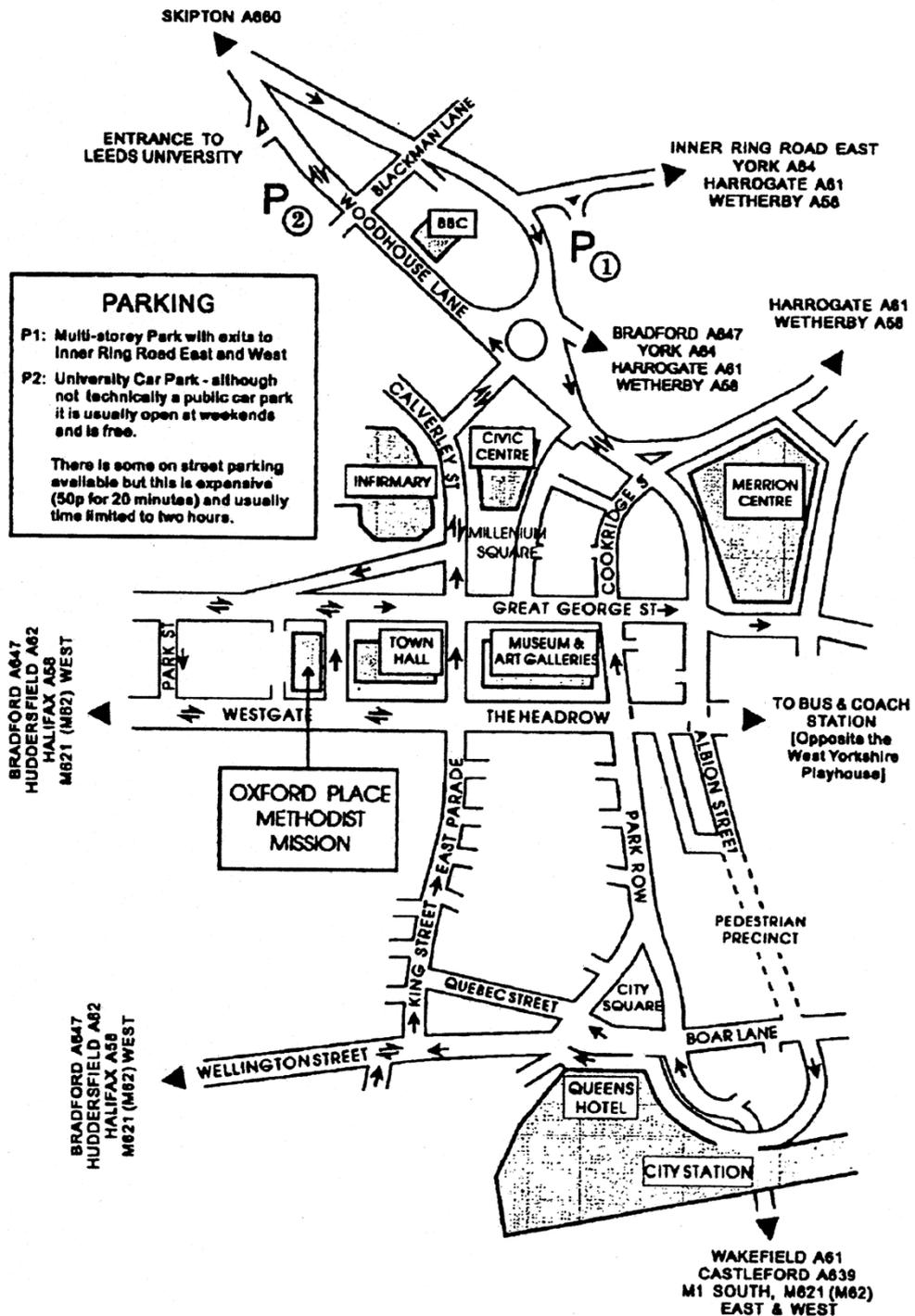
- 10.00 **Coffee or Tea** on arrival
- 10.30 **Meeting for Worship**
- 11.00 **Testimony**
- 11.05 **Welcome to Oxford Place, Appointment of Elders**
- 11.15 **‘Reaching Out’** We will hear from the Under 19s Co-ordinating Group, Junior Holidays, and Easter Settlement. The Outreach Projects Committee and some of their beneficiaries will also report.
- 12.40 **Notices**
- 12.50 **Lunch** (bring your own, drinks provided)
- 14.00 **Appointments and releases**
- 14.10 **Memorandum of Understanding**
- 14.15 **Yorkshire Friends Holiday School** In a change from the usual pattern, this afternoon Holiday School staff, students and helpers will share with us their experiences from the 2017 event.
- 15.00 **North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Council on Religious Education.** Martin Dickinson has represented us on this body for almost three years and reports on his experiences and the work of the Council..
- 16.00 **Tea and departures.** We thank Leeds Friends for their hospitality and all the arrangements for the day.

Children and young people under 19 are most welcome to attend QiY meetings. Adel LM is planning activities to follow a short time in meeting for worship 10.30-10.45. Bring a packed lunch and bus fares.

Contact: Owen Claxton-Ingham on 07711859073 or owen.c.claxton-ingham@uk.pwc.com by 10 January to reserve a place.

Signing in: Please sign the attendance list when you arrive. Name labels will be available. If you have a badge, please bring and wear it.
Bookstall There will be a bookstall selling Quaker publications before the meeting and at lunchtime. Bring purses and wallets!

Directions to Oxford Place Methodist Centre



Oxford Place is next to the Town Hall. Parking in the area is limited, but there are a number of car parks throughout the city.

The Leeds City Bus (£1 flat fare, free with metro card) every 15 mins to the Town Hall from the rail station (stand S8) and the bus and coach station (stands 1 and 2).