



Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter

News, views and events
from meetings in Yorkshire



Sanctuary Meetings

Programme for meeting of QiY at Skipton
St Andrew's Church Hall
Saturday 20 July 2019

EVERYONE WELCOME

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter July 2019

Welcome to the July edition of the QiY Newsletter. Meetings are invited to send items of interest to share with Yorkshire Friends. It is published four times a year, ahead of QiY quarterly meetings.

We also appreciate receiving in advance the names of area meeting representatives to our quarterly meetings.

Deadline for contributions to the October issue: 16 September 2019

Print copies of the newsletter, including the programme for the quarterly gatherings, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know if you need more or fewer copies.

The newsletter is also sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. Please could you ensure that hard copies are made available to Friends without Internet access? If you know of anyone who would like to receive a personal copy directly, please inform the co-clerks.

OFFICERS OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

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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. Apologies to those whose details have taken longer than necessary to be changed on our lists. Some deleted names seem to be auto-corrected back in!

October 2019 Meeting of QiY at York

Our autumn meeting will take place at Bootham School on Saturday 19 October. The morning session will receive reports from Bootham and The Mount, and in the afternoon our focus will be on Quaker archives and family history. Oliver Pickering of Ilkley Meeting will introduce the topic.

Beverley Local Meeting

Beverley Friends are moving out of their Meeting House for refurbishment over the Summer. From Sunday 30 June until mid-September they will meet at Beverley Church Lads and Girls Brigade Hall, George Street, Beverley HU17 0AP. It is located at the back of the George Street/Trinity Lane car park near the railway station. Please note the one-way system on Wilbert Grove and Trinity Lane.

All meetings for worship and for business will be held there at the times arranged, except when the Brigade needs the hall. Please check the website <https://beverleyquakers.org.uk/> for updates.

Invitation to a Reunion

In the 1950s, encouraged by Arnold and Phyllis Waterfall, Yorkshire Young Friends became responsible for maintaining The Barn attached to Airton Meeting House, as a base for enthusiastic holidays and work parties. Peter Leadbeater recorded: *Five cyclists arrived after 4 hours pedalling [from Leeds] ... Spud peeling and wood gathering filled the morning ... appetites satisfied, we began the exacting job of lighting the bonfire... Returning at 9:30 (moonlit evening) to dance down supper, we forgot fatigue and blisters. Such was our enthusiasm that this continued until 12:45... Never was so much breakfast consumed by so few in such a short time... Rain!! table tennis & dancing & frequent brews of tea... Sunday – after meeting, the party set off in a westerly direction, towards Settle, dinner being consumed at Scalber Falls...*

Young and not-so-young Friends, not all from Yorkshire, continued having event-filled weekends, holidays and away-days at Airton until about twenty years ago. If you were you among their number, Airton Meeting invites you, your companion and younger relatives to a reunion to be held at our Meeting House on Saturday 28 September from 10.00 to 15.45. There will be a talk by Gil Skidmore: **What the Yorkshire Quaker Archive Collects and Preserves.**

Please contact Laurel Phillipson dw.l.phillipson@btinternet.com or 01756 753965 for more information. Lunch will be provided if we know in advance that you will be coming.

QiY Meeting Dates for 2020

20 January:	St Aidan's Church, Leeds
19 April:	Sheffield Central Meeting House
18 July:	Pickering Meeting House
17 October:	The Mount School, York

Easter Settlement at Cober Hill 2019



Photo: Martin Schweiger

“Settling in” with the Quakers

As a very new attender at Roundhay (Leeds) Quaker Meeting, I joined Quakers in Yorkshire’s annual Easter Settlement at Cober Hill. I hoped this would be an ideal opportunity to immerse myself in Quaker life and to discover more about what being a Quaker is really like. And I was not disappointed. I discovered great warmth and friendship from Quakers across Yorkshire and they showed genuine interest in a newcomer. Actually, I was not the only newcomer, as I took my dog Baikka, with me. Baikka (which means “be calm, don’t stress”) is a newly accredited therapy dog who

visits schools and he has now shown me that he will also lie down quietly for Quaker worship! He was welcomed as warmly as I was.

The theme of Easter Settlement was the “new economy”, ably led by Olivia Hanks the Economics and Sustainability Programme Manager at Friends House. This created fascinating presentations and discussions about alternative ways of organising the economy and society, using Quaker values. This created a contrast to the mindset and institutions which we have for so long been taught by the ‘powers that be’ to be inevitable. Quaker values demonstrate that many of the economic explanations which are familiar to us, simply serve a minority in the global community and for this the environment pays a really high price.

But Easter Settlement wasn’t only about thought-provoking debate!

There was lovely food and lots of it! The Cober Hill Guest House was very comfortable and the staff were delightful. They were even very forgiving of Baikka when he ran enthusiastically into the kitchen, to check out the menu for the day!

There were also opportunities for dancing, poetry, tai chi, storytelling, worship, clifftop walks and simply sitting over tea and biscuits whilst getting to know people. The weather was absolutely glorious. I watched a blood moon rising over the sea and sat at Cober Hill in the calm of each new day, surrounded by beautiful countryside.

Easter Settlement has given me an excellent insight into Quaker values and a sense of inclusive and faithful community. What I now look forward to exploring in more detail, is Quaker spirituality. This is an important element for me, as I seek a deeper understanding of the origin of Quaker values.

What I have so far discovered is an authentic expression of Jesus’ Sermon on the Mount and his invitation to Life and Light. I find this both encouraging and compelling.

Sue Woolmore

Little Voice

Friends curious to know why this issue contains an advertisement for a popular musical comedy might bear in mind that Helmsley Arts Centre is located in The Old Meeting House.

Quakers in Yorkshire: our quarterly meetings: a Survey

Quakers in Yorkshire (QiY) is a historically rooted regional gathering of members and attenders of Quaker meetings across most of Yorkshire. It meets quarterly, on the third Saturday in January, April, July and October. While QiY is not part of Britain Yearly Meeting's administrative structure, it provides spiritual fellowship, themed sessions and significant support to Local and Area Meetings and their members and attenders.

We are exploring why some Friends attend QiY meetings and some do not. We hope you can spare the time to complete this survey; it should only take a few minutes. Your responses will contribute to our further planning for QiY meetings. The survey is entirely anonymous.

Thank you for taking the trouble to answer the survey. It can be completed online at <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/YR3MSWV> OR by completing the questions here and posting the page to David Heslop, 15 Redwood Close, Long Lee, Keighley, BD21 4YG

Quakers in Yorkshire Arrangements Committee

The Survey:

01. How long have you been attending a Quaker meeting, and which Meeting do you currently attend?

02. How many QiY meetings do you typically attend each year?

- € 0
- € 1
- € 2
- € 3
- € 4

There is space here for a brief comment (for instance, attendance at January only):

03. If you do attend any QiY meetings, what are the reasons? Please tick all that apply:

- € Meeting local F/friends
- € Being aware of what other meetings are doing
- € Quaker business items, including reports
- € Listening to speakers
- € Worship together
- € Visiting different places/meeting houses
- € Other (please state)

04. This question is about being kept well-informed about QiY and our quarterly meetings. Details of forthcoming meetings of QiY are distributed widely, including to LM and AM clerks.

Is this information generally displayed or announced in the meetings which you attend?

05. In what ways, if at all, can travel arrangements affect your decision to attend a QiY meeting?

06. Do access issues at a venue, or any other aspects of the choice of venue, ever affect your decision to attend?

07. Is the theme or topic, or the presence of a particular speaker, important in your decision to attend?

08. Are there any other significant factors when you make your decision to attend?

09. Do you have any suggestions for suitable topics or themes for QiY meetings

10. Finally, there is space here for any further comments you may wish to make:

1812 THEATRE COMPANY PRESENT

THE RISE AND FALL OF
LITTLE VOICE

BY JIM CARTWRIGHT



DIRECTED BY NATASHA JONES

Thu 4 - Sat 6 July 7.30pm & Sat 6 July 2.30pm

Tickets £10 / U18 £5



Box Office 01439 771700 www.helmsleyarts.co.uk

helmsley
artscentre

This amateur production of *The Rise and Fall of Little Voice* by Jim Cartwright is presented by special arrangement with Samuel French LTD

Sanctuary Meetings: Tatiana Garavito and Rosemary Crawley

Tatiana and Rosemary are the principal speakers at our July meeting. Tatiana is Programme Manager for Sanctuary Everywhere at Friends House, and Rosemary is a member of the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network (QARN) steering group. She has done much to build the network of Friends that offers Sanctuary Everywhere.

In addition we hope to learn about the experiences of a number of our meetings which are connected with the Sanctuary movement. Representatives have written to outline their work:

Hilary Evens and Lizzie Rosewood

Harrogate Local Meeting works with many other Friends to support Harrogate District of Sanctuary in its work with refugees and asylum seekers. We provide space at our meeting house for meetings and events, raise funds and volunteer, for example, at English classes and craft groups. This year we are raising money to enable twelve families to have a five day holiday in Wensleydale.

Kathleen Wallace of Sheffield Central writes:

'In early 2018, we decided to become a Sanctuary Meeting. We acknowledged that there was an existing, comprehensive network in Sheffield supporting Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Our role has been to support these organisations. I circulate news so that Friends can, if they wish, contribute time and or money. As a Sanctuary Meeting in cooperation with City of Sanctuary, we celebrated Quaker Week with a Room for More event - bring and share food, entertainment and a ceilidh. A great success.'

Marian McNichol of Settle LM

Rural communities have a role to play too. Settle works on campaigning, which has included two workshops on migration as a racial justice issue and lobbying our MP. We provide services which include: welcoming day trips, working with Settle Community Sponsorship Scheme, accepting responsibility for a Syrian family arriving this summer, helping develop and fund a destitution project with Leeds Asylum Seekers Support Network and developing hosting weekends in partnership with others in the town.

Hilary Browne of Bradford LM

Bradford Meeting is a member of Bradford City of Sanctuary, but is **not** a Sanctuary Meeting. Three members work with Refugee Action, another is involved with housing refugees and another acts as a Mackenzie Friend at the Courts. The meeting has supported a Pakistani family and two asylum seekers during their wait for a decision on their status. Bradford East African Community uses the meeting house once a week, supporting incoming asylum seekers and refugees. Friends give homework support to the young people during these sessions.

Liz Watson of Skipton LM

Liz hopes to share with Yorkshire Friends some of the ways in which Friends in Skipton have engaged with Sanctuary issues.

Jane Wood of Huddersfield LM

Jane has worked for many years with Huddersfield Friends in support of refugees and asylum seekers, offering befriending, delivering the Sanctuary Supper project and Craft Group, collecting clothing and household items for distribution locally and further afield, and more recently supporting the Sudanese Women's Group. Some of this work is in conjunction with Sanctuary Kirklees, part of the national City of Sanctuary initiative.

Paul FitzPatrick of Doncaster LM

Doncaster is a Sanctuary Meeting and local Friends are closely involved in running the Doncaster Conversation Club (DCC), which since 2010 has stood alongside refugees and asylum seekers. Doncaster has been an 'asylum dispersal area' since 1999 when the 'dispersal' policy 'was introduced to reduce the 'burden' on London of supporting destitute asylum seekers. These metaphors remain profoundly problematic but Doncaster, a town re-marketed as a commercial distribution centre, fits the criteria for a dispersal location.

Currently well over 100 people attend DCC on a typical Thursday. Their countries of origin tend to match the national profile. As the Club has expanded we have built links with service providers such as Migrant Help and local housing groups, who can dispense advice as people eat, drink and socialise. 'Health volunteers' ensure that everyone is registered with a GP and people can also join language classes or apply for travel documents.

DCC is run entirely by volunteers and depends on grants from charitable trusts to organize cultural visits and outings. It preceded the creation of Sanctuary Meetings and a Sanctuary Meeting should do more than sustain the Club. So in January 2019 we hosted an evening of conversation and reflection with members of different local churches to explore, following the model of a 'World Café', the impact on church communities of asylum seekers and refugees.

Among the many challenges, there remains work we must do within ourselves to decolonise our thinking so that we are not doing things to sustain 'dependent others'.

Paul is unable to attend on 20 July. This account replaces his spoken contribution. The Conversation Club Newsletter is rich in detail of the work undertaken and the most recent issue is available online:

<https://doncaster.cityofsanctuary.org/.../doncaster-conversation-club-newsletter-no-55>

MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE

20 July 2019 St Andrew's Church Hall Skipton

PROGRAMME

10.00 **Coffee or Tea** on arrival

10.30 **Meeting for Worship**

11.00 **Welcome to Skipton** by **Liz Watson AM Clerk**
Appointment of Elders

11.05 **Annual Reports of Trustees of QiY and Glenthorne**

Barbara Windle will present the QiY report and accounts for 2018. Meg Hill a Westmorland GM Trustee at Glenthorne, will present the Glenthorne report for 2018.

11.30 **Sanctuary Meetings** Tatiana Garavito and Rosemary Crawley will present an overview of the movement and how Friends across the country are involved. We will then hear short reports from a number of Yorkshire Meetings about their contributions to the Sanctuary movement. We hope there will be time for questions.

12.45 **Nominations**

12.50 **Notices**

13.00 **Lunch** (Bring your own – drinks provided.)

14.00 **Activities arranged by Skipton Friends**

Millennium Walk Follow a local map and find your way round yourself!

Guided Walk in Skipton Woods led by Mike Watson

Appleseed Workshop and/or **Craft Activities** led by Floe Shakespeare.

Explore Skipton Castle or take a canal boat trip.

14.00 Chris Skidmore **How Farfield Meeting House Was Saved**

15.00 Anne Bettys **Roots of Resistance: Can 1000 Quakers stop the Arms Fair?**

16.00 **Tea and depart**

Childcare Friends wishing to bring children to the meeting should contact Mike Watson by 10 July

Parking Limited parking for disabled/Blue Badge holders is available. Please contact Mike Watson to reserve a place.

beam.watson@gmail.com or 01756 798578/07970 029721.

Directions

From Leeds and Bradford there are two trains each hour to Skipton. From the station walk down to the road, turn right and walk into the town centre – about 5-10 minutes. At the complex road junction keep walking ahead, past Yorkshire Trading and Savers, into Newmarket Street. St Andrews is on the left hand side some 300 yards further.

Parking in Skipton can be busy and expensive in the town centre. Closest to St Andrews is the council car park behind the Town Hall, BD23 1ED, £4.50 for 4 hours. A little further out is Skipton Castle parking on The Bailey, BD23 1UA, £2.50 for the whole of a Saturday.

On the map, the station is bottom left, St Andrew's is the last cross on the right.

