



Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter



**News, views and events
from Quaker meetings in Yorkshire**

Annual QiY Calendar

**Programme for QiY meeting at
St Aidan's Church, Harehills, Leeds
Saturday 18 January 2020**

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter January 2020

Welcome to January's edition of the Newsletter. In the centrefold you will find the annual Calendar with contact details and events ready to be removed for reference. Our Calendar image is the John Woolman Quaker Tapestry panel for its relevance to environmental and climate change issues which will feature at our July meeting at Pickering. The Calendar will not be circulated separately but if you need a paper or email copy please contact the QiY co-clerks.

Reminder

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 April issue: 14 March 2020

Hard copies of the newsletter, including the programmes for QiY 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 Friends without Internet access receive hard copies? If anyone would like to receive a personal copy, please inform the co-clerks.

Quakers in Yorkshire Website *quakersinyorkshire.org.uk* Please let the co-clerks know if you see any errors relating to your meeting or if there are additional items 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 regulations 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.

We have heard that some emails have been circulated to deceased Friends. Every effort has been made to keep our lists up to date, but it's possible that communications from QiY are forwarded by area or local meetings – so please check that your lists are accurate!

Next meeting of QiY

April's meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire will be held at Sheffield Central Meeting House. We shall hear about the work of CRESST (Conflict Resolution Education in Sheffield Schools Training) the programme that aims to enable young people to handle conflict. Also on the agenda will be the Sheffield Pen and Pencil Society, an archive with which Sheffield Friends are engaged. Finally there will be a contribution about the Sheffield Quaker Tapestry panel.

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School 2019

In August around 80 Young Friends gathered at Bootham School for YFHS 2019. A strong sense of community was established as friendships developed and everyone was warmly welcomed into the group.

The theme was 'Creative Action', and sessions provided the chance to discuss what creativity means and how it can solve problems. External speakers included documentary film-maker Miriam Lyons, founder of The Swan Song Project Ben Slack, and Community Theatre practitioner Abi Horsfield. Each shared experiences of using creativity to make positive changes in people's lives.

Meeting for Worship and evening epilogue provided time to reflect on Holiday School and our lives outside of it. Nest Groups, Activity Groups, evening Socials and free time activities provided a lot of fun and laughter. YFHS 2019 was thought-provoking, inspiring and uplifting, providing friendships that will be maintained throughout the year. (For more see YFHS Epistle on QiY website.)

Huddersfield Friends' 59th Peace Vigil



Huddersfield Quakers, with support from Bradford and High Flatts meetings, as well as non-Quaker friends, maintain their monthly peace vigil in the town's Market Place. Fifteen turned out in November in spite of the rain.

Quakers in Yorkshire attendance Survey: the findings

Introduction The survey aimed to find out why some Friends attend QiY meetings and some do not, and to elicit suggestions for improvements. Most of the questions were open-ended, to allow as much comment and feedback as possible; here, unsurprisingly, Friends did not disappoint.

Numbers attending and related matters

There were 103 responses (just under 5% of Quakers in Yorkshire.) Roughly 40% said they do not attend any quarterly meetings; only a handful of Friends indicated that they attend each meeting. A few said they didn't know they could attend but the majority said they were well-informed about QiY meetings; the revised newsletter was seen to be helpful. It was suggested that all local meetings should have a QiY 'advocate'. The commonest reason for attending was 'listening to a particular speaker', but 'meeting local F/friends' and 'being aware of what other Meetings are doing' were also important. Worship together was the least common reason for attending. For some, QiY can feel like one layer of meetings too many.

Travel arrangements and 'Busyness'

The time and complexity of travel arrangements were significant for many Friends, and the benefits of using a transport 'hub' (with convenient access to train stations; other ways to co-ordinate transport arrangements). Friends lead busy lives, and finding time on a Saturday, whilst juggling involvement with Quaker activities amidst other needs, is not always easy.

Venues

'Creature comforts' at our venues received comment: seating, temperature and provision of 'shuffle breaks' were all mentioned as (sometimes) requiring attention. Longer lunch breaks might better facilitate QiY committee meetings.

Quaker schools

Many Friends do not attend meetings at our Quaker schools, or choose to attend during only part of the day, thereby avoiding school business; hearing from the schools does not have to entail visiting them.

Suggestions for topics

The following are a representative sample of responses received, excluding topics planned and forthcoming over the next year:

Quaker spirituality and the place of mysticism within it • practical topics such as centring prayer or using A&Q day-by-day • spiritual basis of our faith • scriptural guidance • ways to make outreach more effective • older

Meeting Houses and their maintenance • peace issues • Fair Trade • accountability of USA bases • refugees and the work of QCEA • our response to the current political malaise • the future of the UK, citizens' assemblies, becoming a federation rather than a union, more regional devolution • criminal justice or social issues like homelessness • responding to the climate emergency - how can Quakers lead?

Additional comments

The following suggestions reflect the wide range of ideas and points raised:

More group work and greater interactivity • addressing how we can all feel more like 'one community' • looking carefully at the future of the Society (especially as regards young Friends) • best use of resources (both financial and personnel) so that we prosper • having a traditional 'tea' at the end of the day • working together across all seven Area Meetings to reduce bureaucracy so that we can focus more on the spiritual aspects of our beliefs • QiY is one layer too many: awareness of other meetings' activities can be met through newsletters and social media • Friends would feel more engaged if they felt included in decision-making nationally and regionally • if QiY doesn't meet in a meeting house, there should be an opportunity to visit the local one • efforts should be made for Young Friends to meet at every QiY meeting • school reports could be circulated electronically in advance, giving more time for 'questions and answers' • to reduce meeting content, and add greater variety, challenge and opportunities for social activity • young people are our future: we must ask them both what they want for the future, and how to achieve it; and we must listen and act • look at inclusivity in all aspects of the Society of Friends, and encourage new people to become involved • arrange online streaming of the parts of meetings where this is possible and appropriate.

QiY: responding to the findings from the survey

These summaries are necessarily brief, but we hope Friends can be assured that every response has been read and carefully considered, even if a particular suggestion is not shown here. We also hope the wide range of comments has been suitably illustrated. We feel that Friends are very engaged with many aspects of Quakers in Yorkshire — but far from uncritically, naturally enough.

Finally

Thanks to everyone who responded to the survey: for your time and trouble, and for your thoughtful considerations. Such is the value of the survey, we think we should conduct repeat the exercise every five years, to keep a close track of developments, and to maintain the full engagement of as many Friends as possible in helping QiY to serve all our meetings, so that each of these meetings — local, area, and quarterly — can thrive and grow.

Settle Quakers welcome people seeking refuge in the UK



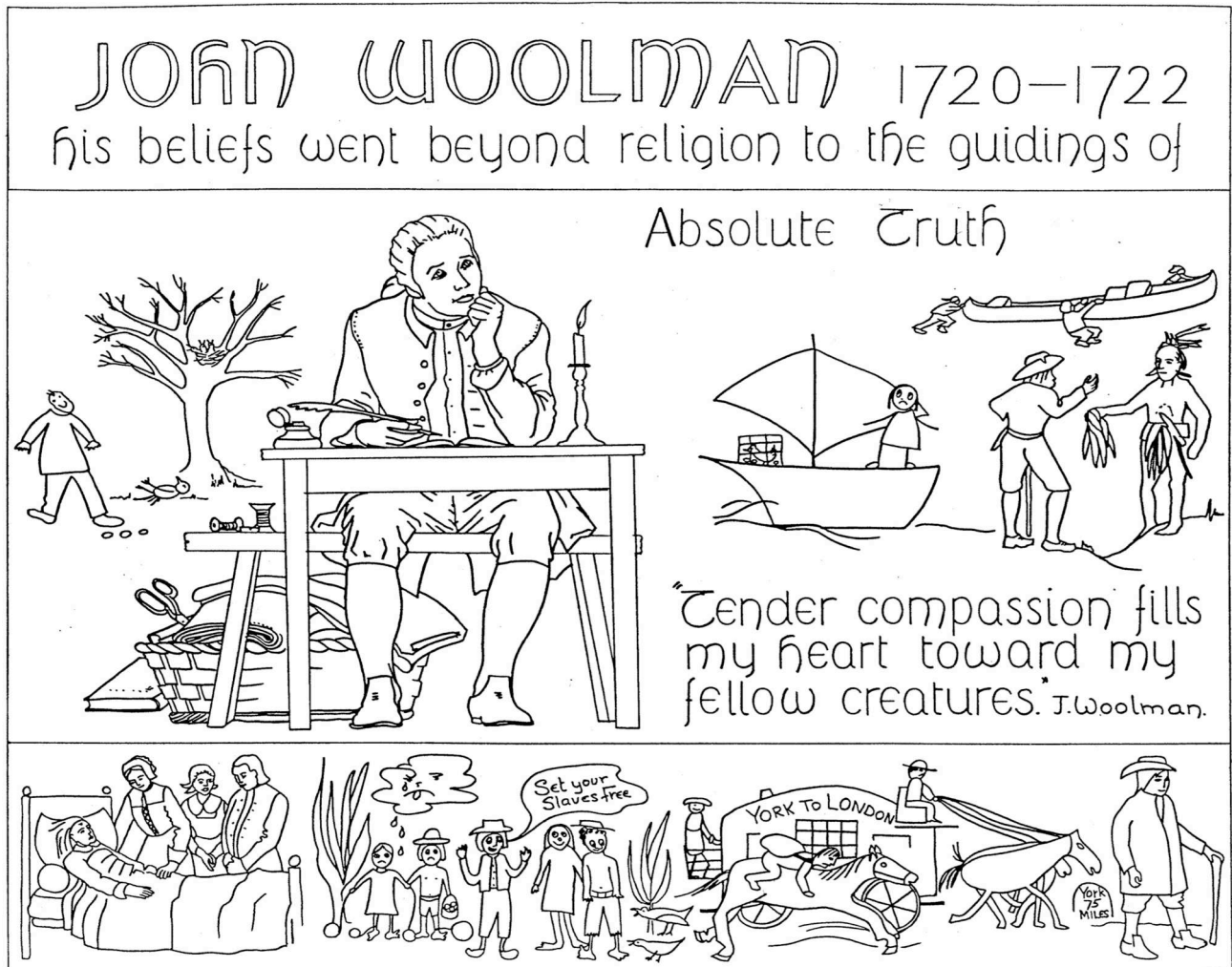
When you offer hospitality who gets the most out of it? Settle community with Quaker support are taking action for people seeking sanctuary. Our hosting weekend in September was an amazing gift to hosts as well as asylum seekers. Our work with a local Syrian family enriches our lives. Fundraising and political campaigning on these issues helps dispel feelings of powerlessness. We are a small market town in North Yorkshire where both faith- and non-faith communities come together to change the world. In this joint work for those seeking sanctuary we discover enormous benefits that help us develop and mature as a kinder and friendlier place for all of us to thrive.

Leeds Area Meeting - Preparing for 2030

In our consideration of State of the Meeting Reports in June 2019, we became acutely aware of falling numbers and an ageing worshipping community. This led to a concern about where we would be ten years from now. A group of Friends looked at this and recommended a workshop to consider our future.

A day workshop has been arranged for Saturday 29th February at Carlton Hill (Leeds Central Meeting). It will be facilitated by two tutors from Woodbrooke and will consider a variety of issues including: buildings, accessibility, sustainability, simplifying roles and meetings, pooling resources and ensuring we retain our spiritual base. It should be a very interesting and thought-provoking day. We hope that at least two people from each meeting will come and we hope to welcome many more, particularly young people - it is their future we will be talking about and we know from the work they have done for LAQM that they have an enormous amount to contribute.

Quakers in Yorkshire Calendar 2020



Saturday 18 January 2020
St Aidan's Church, Harehills, Leeds
Saturday 18 April Sheffield Central FMH
Saturday 18 July Pickering FMH
Saturday 17 October The Mount School, York

Further information on Quakers in Yorkshire activities, 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) 2020

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 contact details.

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..." Events and information: nfpb.org.uk or 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, 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 Independent specialist library concerned with non-violent social change. See www.brad.ac.uk/library/sites-and-collections/commonweal-collection

Junior Holidays 2020 (7-12 years)

5-7 June A weekend is planned at Nell Bank, Ilkley

23-25 October 2020 Barmoor, Hutton-le-Hole

To register an interest and receive booking forms and further information please email: bronwenalty@gmail.com

Also if you are an adult interested in volunteering at one of the holidays, please get in touch. We are especially keen to recruit people with experience of running games and activities with large groups of children.

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School (13-18 years)

Sunday 16th – 23rd August 2019 at Bootham School York. YFHS is an annual, week-long residential gathering for around a hundred 13 to 18 year olds. The aim is to build a vibrant, respectful Quaker community and organise a mixture of activities, both fun and thought-provoking. Application packs will be issued in February. If you wish to be added to the circulation list for these please contact yfhssecretary@gmail.com

GLENTHORNE Events, Courses, Holidays 2020

The Quaker guest house in Grasmere in the Lake District has published its programme of courses for 2020. These include: *An Astonishing Secret, Patchwork for Fun, Creative Writing, Circle Dancing, Creative Textiles – Fun with Fabric, Guide to the Grateful Way of Life, Not a Notion but a Way! Quakers' Interpretation of Christianity* and later in the year *Spiritual Wellbeing in Later Life*.
www.glenthorne.org/events/events-programme-2020/
email: info@glenthorne.org Tel: 015394 35389

BAMFORD QUAKER COMMUNITY 2020 PROGRAMME

The Bamford Community's programme of activities start 2020 with:

17-19 Jan Exploring Community

17-21 Feb Food 4 the Soul

9-13 March Your Spiritual Journey

More courses and working retreats will follow: www.quakercommunity.org.uk/
email: mail@quakercommunity.org.uk Tel: 01433 650085

Menwith Hill Worship

RAF Menwith Hill, Birstwith, Harrogate HG3 2RL is a unit which provides communications and intelligence support services to the UK and the US. Meeting for Worship outside Menwith Hill takes place on the first Saturday every two months: February, April, June, August, October and December. This action is a York AM Concern and Harrogate Meeting would appreciate support.

For details/help getting there, contact: Gilly Charters (07808 863009), Barbara Penny (07737 368459) or Ruth Rymer (01765 677943)

Do join us, but bring a chair and wear warm clothing!

Quakers in Yorkshire Easter Settlement 2020



“Ourselves, Our World”

James and Ruth McCarthy

What is this year’s theme all about?

“What is an adequate Quaker response to a world in turmoil?
How do the crises that beset us shape our thoughts and
feelings, and what does this mean for our behaviour as
Quakers?”

“We will look at how we can create space to examine our
feelings with compassion, reconnect with others, find strengths
that may have been hidden from us, and think together about
possible futures. We will use the work of Joanna Macy and
others to build a sense of community and new perspectives.”

Easter Settlement is a gathering for Friends of all ages
with a program for children’s activities
at Cober Hill Guest House, Cloughton, Scarborough

Friday 10th April to Monday 13th April 2020

(You are welcome to stay on until Tuesday 14th April)

Further Information contact

<p>Helen Brockley (Tel 01484851366) hj.brockley@btinternet.com</p>	<p>Pauline Leonard (Tel 0113 2786 351) pauline@paulineleonard.plus.com</p>
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Application forms are available from your local Meeting clerk or on line at
www.quakersinYorkshire.org.uk

Co-operation or Conflict? Junior Holiday style



Photos from the 2019 Junior Holidays forwarded by Bronwen Alty.

Simpler Meetings

The Simpler Meetings Project aims to help meetings lift some of the burden of administration from the shoulders of busy Quakers. The purpose is to liberate Quakers' time for spiritual growth, building communities, outreach and witness in the world. Jonathan Carmichael, Simpler Meetings project manager for Quaker Life, is coming to speak at our January meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire. He will cover ways Quakers have found to support role holders, ways that area meetings can work together, and what is essential (and not so essential) for small meetings. Jonathan has produced a set of short videos, which are also covered in a document. You can find them and more on the Simpler Meetings webpage: quaker.org.uk/simplermeetings or via the QiY website.

Roots of Resistance



Brighouse West Yorkshire Roots of Resistance group met at Huddersfield to review their experiences at the DSEI Arms Fair in September and to make plans for future initiatives. Founder member of Extinction Rebellion Ian Bray of Huddersfield meeting is pictured here with the group.

Airton Barn

Saturday 28th March at 1.30. Lunchtime concert by Chetham's School of Music. Friends can keep in touch with upcoming events at Airton via their website: <https://airtonbarn.org.uk/news/whats-on/>

CAST – a theatre of sanctuary

On 28 November, CAST, a purpose-built theatre venue opened in 2013 in central Doncaster, was officially recognised as a Theatre of Sanctuary through its Social Seats programme and its commitment to inclusivity. The award confirms that CAST is a safe space for sanctuary seekers and refugees. We are delighted to be the first South Yorkshire theatre to be awarded 'Theatre of Sanctuary' status and join the ranks of Leeds Playhouse, The Young Vic and Wakefield Theatre Royal, amongst others.

Since its start, Cast has had a track record for inclusion, fairness, openness and community belonging. But there are multiple barriers that prevent people from having equal access to the arts. In 2016 we decided to explore strategic ways of understanding and meeting the needs of vulnerable local people. With generous help from The Paul Hamlyn Foundation we created the Social Seats scheme, working with some of our most vulnerable (and most exciting, loving, beautiful, inspirational) people to learn how to change the ways we function.

So, what started as a gathering of the willing, has become a movement of the people. By opening up, and letting the people change us, the theatre has been transformed. At the heart of the programme was a very special group of people - the volunteers and friends of Doncaster Conversation Club, Doncaster Minster Literacy Project and the Refugee Council.

Since we welcomed sanctuary seekers as equals and partners some amazing things have happened. We've watched performances together, written poetry together, spoken Truth to the Power together, written plays together, pretended to be trees doing physical theatre together and now we're working with the National Theatre to perform in a production on our stage - together with over 100 other local participants.

Over the next few years we will redouble our efforts not only to involve our sanctuary seeker community, and to benefit from their world views. We will work alongside them as advocates, welcome their children to play with our own and develop artists from refugee and asylum seeker backgrounds. We will develop our first volunteer programme, to let sanctuary seekers work alongside their fellow Doncastrians in flagship creative opportunities.

We are committed to tackling hate, racism and divisions in our communities. We will work with our partners DN4ALL to raise awareness in the wider communities around tolerance through projects of unity.

Nicola Doyle [Community Producer CAST]

[Edited from the Doncaster Conversation Club newsletter. The Club meets at Doncaster (Balby) Meeting House and is supported by the local meeting.]

Churches Together England block Quaker appointment

Hannah Brock Womack was nominated as one of the six presidents of Churches Together in England (CTE). But to her "sadness and frustration and shock" she was told she could not continue in the position. CTE said its members included churches which have a "traditional understanding of Christian marriage". The organisation, which is led by six presidents who represent a range of Christian denominations, coordinates the work of different churches in England.

Barnsley Message of Support

Barnsley Meeting has sent a message of support to Hannah Brock Womack, in response to Churches Together's reaction to her appointment. Barnsley Friends write: 'Whilst acknowledging CTE's good work on ecumenical dialogue, we also express our "shock, disappointment, outrage and grief" at CTE's request that Hannah does not take up her seat. We deeply regret that your voice, which...would have offered a different and fresher perspective has, for the moment at least, been silenced.' We finally refer to *Advice & Queries* 22, affirming our continued holding of Hannah and the general situation in the Light.

Jonathan Doering, Barnsley LM.

New Co-Clerk for Quakers in Yorkshire

At the table at January's meeting of QiY will be Gavin Burnell of Leeds Area Meeting who takes over from Chris Love after six years in the role. Among his wide ranging contributions in his local and area meetings Gavin has served as a QiY Trustee, on BYM Agenda Committee and as second assistant clerk at Yearly Meeting. We welcome him warmly.

Newsletter Editor

The new clerking team would welcome assistance from a Friend who would be willing to help with the production of the QiY newsletter. A good familiarity with Microsoft Word or other desktop publishing programmes and an eye for Yorkshire wide Quaker stories, as well as the ability to edit copy would be most helpful. Some remuneration may be available!

Expressions of interest should be emailed to the co-clerks in the first instance.

MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE 18 Jan 2020

PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY

10.00 **Coffee or Tea** on arrival

10.30 **Meeting for Worship**

11.00 **Testimony**

11.05 **Welcome to St Aidan's, Appointment of Elders**

11.15 **'Reaching Out'** We will hear from the Under 19s Co-ordinating Group Junior Holidays and Easter Settlement.

12.15 **Outreach Projects Committee** and some of their beneficiaries will also report.

12.50 **Notices**

13.00 **Lunch** (bring your own, drinks provided)

14.00 **Appointments and releases**

14.10 **PAFRAS** We will hear from Edwina Beier on the work of PAFRAS (Positive Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers)

14.20 **Simpler Meetings**

Jonathan Carmichael from Friends House will update us on the developments in BYM on this project. We will also hear about the work of GRASP, (the Yorkshire Group to Reinvigorate And Simplify Processes).

15.15 **Yorkshire Friends Holiday School**

Holiday School staff, students and helpers will share with us their experiences from the 2019 event.

16.00 **Tea and departures.**

We thank Leeds Friends for their hospitality and for making the arrangements for the day. We also thank the staff at St Aidan's for the use of their premises and their help in accommodating our gathering.

Attendance

Please note: in the interests of safety and security we will ask you to sign in as a record of your attendance at the meeting. If you are representing a meeting, please sign or tick the list of representatives.

Name Badges

There will be sticky labels for you to write your name on, but if you already have a name badge, please bring it, and remember to wear it!

Children and young people are welcome to attend in the company of their parents or guardians. Leeds Friends have kindly offered to provide activities and child-care at this meeting.

Please contact Helen Ford on 01943 879398 or email ford.helen@outlook.com with details and ages by Sunday 12 January if you wish to bring children along. **Otherwise a place cannot be guaranteed!**

Travel to St Aidan's

Address: Roundhay Road, Leeds LS8 5QD

By car A limited number of parking spaces are available adjacent to the church off Elford Place West; additional spaces in the surrounding streets.

By bus Friends should catch a 12, 13 or 13A from either of these stops: **V1 on New Market Street** or **N1 on New Briggate**. Approach V1 via Boar Lane from the rail station, and N1 via Eastgate from the bus station. Both 12 and 13/13A run every 10 minutes on a Saturday, so between them they should run every 5 minutes. Journey time to St. Aidan's about 9 minutes from V1 and 7 minutes from N1. Alight at Elford Place after Bayswater Crescent and Elford Grove (on the right). Church easily visible on the right.



The railway station is bottom left on the map, the bus station centre right.