

## Quakers in Yorkshire GRASP Report Reinvigoration and Simplification

**Group to Reinvigorate and Simplify  
Structures and Processes**

<https://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/report/>

### GRASP members

- David Bunney (Central Yorkshire)
- Alison Clarke (York)
- Tim Herrick (Sheffield & Balby)
- Jim Ledwidge (Brighouse West Yorkshire)
- Tracey Martin (Leeds)
- David Olver (Craven & Keighley & Convenor)
- Rosie Roberts (co-opted)
- Phyllis Wicks (Pickering & Hull)
- Barbara Windle (co-opted).

### GRASP Timeline

- April 2019 Paul Parker enthuses us at Doncaster
- Autumn 2019 GRASP starts work
- Jan 2020 Interim consultation
- March 2020 – PANDEMIC dramatically interrupts consideration of issues
- Autumn 2020 – GRASP nominations workshop
- February 2021 – Final report published
- Spring 2021 – Report considered by LMs/AMs

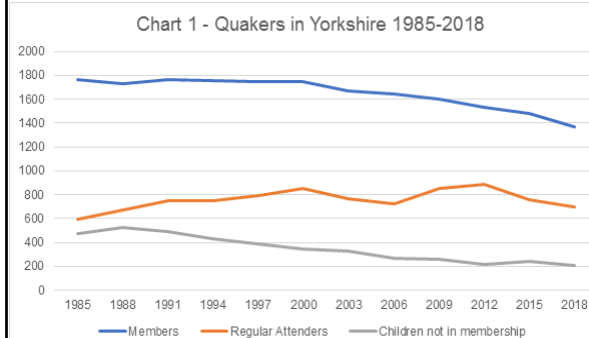
### COVID Pandemic consequences for Quakerism

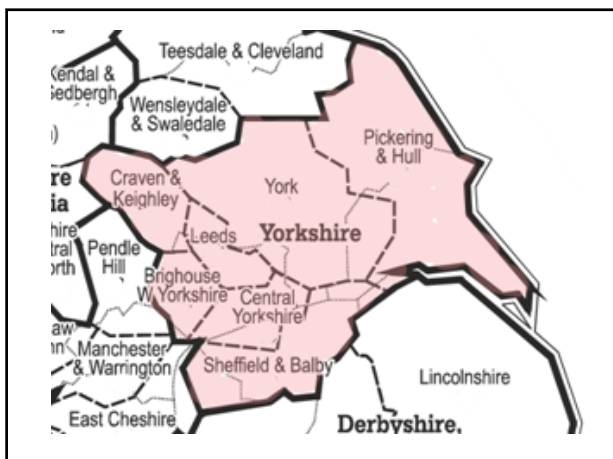
- Shock to way we worship and do business
- Forced change
- IT can enable worship/business to continue
- IT can even improve way we do business
- Meetings adapting at different rates
- Shown that new ways of doing things are possible
- Future options for worship/business are considerable

### Simplification - Background issues

- Ageing and declining membership
- Increasing legal and governance demands
- Complex governance & admin structures
- Too few active Friends doing too many roles

Trends in Members, Attenders and Children (not in membership) over the period 1985 to 2018.





### Yorkshire Quakers in numbers

AM	Members	Attenders	Children	Roles
Brighouse WY	150	73	21	49
Central Yorks	116	46	11	55
Craven & Keighley	128	97	14	44
Leeds	173	101	41	63
Pickering & Hull	149	93	16	74
Sheffield & Balby	166	64	27	53
York	367	177	71	61
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1249</b>	<b>651</b>	<b>201</b>	<b>399</b>

### Yorkshire Quakers in numbers

AM	Meetings	Meeting Houses	Heritage
Brighouse WY	5	3	0
Central Yorks	6	6	2
Craven & Keighley	5	5	4
Leeds	6	6	2
Pickering & Hull	7	6	3
Sheffield & Balby	4	2	0
York	5	5	1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>12</b>

- ### GRASP recommendations
- GRASP is not a decision-making body – it is up to each AM and LM to make decisions.
  - GRASP recommendations cover the following:
    - Nominations
    - Local Meetings
    - Area Meetings
    - Area Meeting Trustees
    - Sharing between Meetings

- ### Sharing between Meetings
- Sharing between meetings can free personal resources for the flowering of the spirit, both through worship and through witness.
  - Examples include:
    - Sharing or assisting with roles across AMs
    - Combining roles or merging functions across AMs
    - Sharing policies
    - Merging charitable functions
    - Merging AMs

- ### Britain Yearly Meeting Investment in Yorkshire
- Yorkshire Youth Worker project extended
  - Yorkshire Local Development Worker starting
  - Hub at Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds, for staff from BYM and Woodbrooke

### National initiatives

- Priority of Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) trustees:  
*“A simple church supported by a simple charity to reinvigorate Quakerism”.*
- Simpler Meetings project
- London & Wales – considering merging charities but keeping area meetings

### Quakers in Yorkshire

- Seven area meetings, one Quakers in Yorkshire
- Regional and historic county structure makes it easier for us to consider sharing, collaborating, combining
- Personal links are at heart of good cooperation
- Good basis for reinvigoration and simplification
- Must share successes with others
- QiY itself needs to consider simplification

### Questions for Break Out Groups

1. What progress has been made towards reinvigoration since Paul Parker spoke to QiY at Doncaster in April 2019?
2. Should Yorkshire AMs actively work towards merging charitable functions across area meetings and might QiY/GRASP's support be usefully available to any AMs interested?
3. What small change can I/we make over the next year that will make a difference?