

# Quakers in Yorkshire



## April 2022 Newsletter

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Quakers in Yorkshire is fortunate to have both a Local Development Worker (Bridget Holtom) and a Youth Development Worker (Jo Baynham) covering our region. In this newsletter we find out more about what they think about themselves as well as some of the activities they are organising. Both Bridget and Jo are employed by Quakers in Britain and based at the Yorkshire Centre, adjacent to Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds. This all reflects the strong investment that Quakers in Britain is making in the region. It also reflects our own commitment as the Youth Development Worker post is currently funded by Quakers in Yorkshire and by our seven area meetings.

# Programme for April quarterly meeting at Ackworth

Saturday 23 April 2022

Ackworth Meeting House, Ackworth School, Pontefract, WF7 7LT

## Agenda

- 10.00 Coffee/tea available
- 10.30 Meeting for Worship
- 10.55 Testimony: Bridget Robson
- 11.00 Welcome from Clerks, to review the agenda, appoint Elders , housekeeping  
Bradford Peace Museum with Clive Barrett (see below)  
Racial Justice update from QiY group  
Appointments and releases
- 12.55 Notices, to be sent to the Co-Clerks prior to the meeting
- 13.00 Lunch. Bring your own with refreshments available
- 14.00 Testimony: Eva Pinthus  
Book of Discipline Revision Committee (see below)  
Summary of the discussion and participation session.
- 16.00. Closing Minute

Note: there will not be a young people's event to run concurrently with this meeting. We hope that arrangements can be made for our meeting in Scarborough in July.

The venue has been changed to meet the concerns of Huddersfield LM that the current Covid regulations might put Friends at risk in their meeting house. The co-Clerks consider that the agenda does not lend itself to an online meeting and therefore have opted to move to a larger venue. In addition, Friends will be able to choose whether to attend or not.

## Transport

As The public transport links are not brilliant for Ackworth we ask you to register online, only for identifying transport needs and offers of help. The link is <https://bit.ly/3vTYPbQ>

We look forward to welcoming you to Ackworth in April.

Co-Clerks: David Bunney and Gavin Burnell

## The Peace Museum

The Peace Museum, Bradford-based, is the only UK accredited museum dedicated to peace, and to building that culture of peace needed so much by our society and our planet. We value our Quaker origins and the ongoing support of Friends. Our vision is to be a national resource that educates and inspires people for peace, using our unique collection of artefacts and stories. For over twenty years we have been championing the untold stories of radical, courageous

peacemakers and nonviolent movements of social justice, striving for a more peaceful, equal planet - for the belief that war is never anything other than failure. We have over 9,000 objects in our unique and expanding collection. Our education programme reaches schools across the North of England, inspiring future generations for peace. Indeed, we have been so successful we have outgrown our existing premises, and plans are advanced for an amazing new museum attracting tens of thousands of visitors each year.

## Book of Discipline Revision Committee

Rosie Carnall, Co-Clerk of the Book of Discipline Revision Committee, writes:

When the yearly meeting agreed to a full revision of Quaker Faith & Practice in 2018, the minute said (in part) "We encourage the revision committee to be prayerful, joyful, creative and bold." We are doing our best!

In our work we are moving away from the current chapter structure and have developed these seven themes which we think cover all the topics we need to include:

- Spirituality, worship and discernment – individually and collectively with God
- Quaker community – life in our meetings
- Testimony and faith in action – in the world
- Stages of personal life journeys and close relationships
- Church government – how we organise ourselves
- Our story – where we have come from and where we are going
- Advices & Queries

We've been working on drafting material as a way of finding 'the voice of the book'. This includes the concern for making text accessible for everyone. We're keen that Friends throughout the yearly meeting feel connected with our work, so that when we are ready to bring draft text for wider consideration, we can hope to get a full range of responses.

Members of the revision committee will be joining Quaker in Yorkshire to offer a participatory session, exploring themes through reflection, discussion and short written/creative exercises. We hope Friends will find this session a way to connect with the process of writing about our shared Quaker faith and practice. We also hope that you will be able to share back from the experience with your local or area meeting.

## Yorkshire welcomes refugees and takes a stand against the Anti-Refugee Bill

Quakers in Yorkshire has signed the following statement which has been promoted by the Yorkshire and Humberside Group of Asylum Matters (<https://asylummatters.org/>). Following months of campaigning against the "Anti-Refugee Bill", which has seen protests in Settle, Skipton, Ripon, Halifax, Leeds, and Bradford, as well as action taken by leaders of Sheffield City Council, over 120 charities, faith groups, businesses, political leaders and community organisations from across Yorkshire have come together to publish a joint statement making clear our region's support for refugees and opposing proposals in the Government's new Nationality and Borders Bill.

*As leaders, charities, communities, businesses and faith groups from Yorkshire, we are proud to be a place of welcome. The recent outpouring of support across our region for people fleeing Ukraine and Afghanistan is testament to this. Our spirit of care and solidarity with people seeking safety is stronger than ever, regardless of their method of travel.*

*The tragic loss of human life, to war, persecution, or in the Channel, is utterly devastating. Instead of allowing these avoidable deaths to continue, the UK must alter its course, showing global leadership by establishing a compassionate, humane protection system based on the right to seek asylum, safe routes and international cooperation. Only by honouring our obligations to protect refugees and ensuring safe routes to claim asylum will we prevent further tragedies from happening.*

*That is why we are deeply concerned about the Government's Nationality and Borders Bill, which will have grave consequences for people seeking safety and for our society as a whole.*

*We are persuaded that the Nationality and Borders Bill is unlikely to stop people attempting to reach safety, but it will make their journeys more dangerous. It seeks to punish and criminalise people seeking safety outside the very limited resettlement schemes. It will prevent people who have fled violence and persecution from rebuilding their lives, make it nearly impossible to reunite families and prevent our communities from giving the welcome we are so proud to give. Together, we are striving to make our communities safer and stronger, but the measures in this legislation are likely to undermine our efforts by increasing destitution and inhibiting integration in our areas.*

*Yorkshire is a place that is strengthened by refugees and people seeking safety, this disregard for human life cannot happen in our name. We are united in opposing this anti-refugee bill, which has been condemned by the UNHCR, the Jewish Council for Racial Equality, Amnesty International, a coalition of over 200 immigration lawyers and many, many others. We call on the UK Government to withdraw these cruel and divisive proposals; and instead to protect people fleeing war and persecution.*

## **Peer Support Zoom Calls for Role Holders**

These role-holder gatherings will be facilitated by Bridget Holtom (Local Development Worker) around a theme relevant to each role. The 1 hour zoom sessions will be an interactive space to raise concerns, share case studies, compare ways of working and find solutions together across Yorkshire. Please register in advance to receive a zoom link and you will get a reminder closer to the time. Email Bridget with any queries: <mailto:Bridgeth@quaker.org.uk>

**To register go to <https://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/local-development-worker/> and click on your choice of session.**

### **Local Meeting Clerks**

Tue Apr 26th 19:00; Wed Apr 27th 16:00; Wed Jul 6th 18:00; Thu Jul 7th 12:30; Tue Oct 11th 11:00; Wed Oct 12th 19:00

### **Elders/Spiritual Care**

Tue May 17 14:00; Wed May 18 19:00; Tue Sep 13 19:30; Wed Sep 14 12:30; Tue Dec 13 11:00; Wed Dec 14 16:30

### **Nominations Committee Members**

Wed May 4 12:00; Thu May 5 19:00

### Overseers/Pastoral Care

Tue Jun 14 17:30; Wed Jun 15 15:00; Tue Sep 27 16:30; Wed Sep 28 19:30; Tue Nov 8 18:00; Thu Nov 10 12:30

### Safeguarding Coordinators

Wed Jun 29 18:00

### Treasurers

Tue Jul 5 18:00; Wed Jul 6 12:00

### Trustees

Thu Jul 7 19:00; Wed Sep 21 19:00

### Area Meeting Clerks and Clerks to Trustees

Wed May 4 19:30 (no need to register in advance)

## Youthwork events this Spring

Jo Baynham (Youth Development worker) is promoting the following events for young people.

Email Jo with any queries: <mailto:JonathanB@quaker.org.uk>

**HELLO**  
**Spring!**

**Online Youth Group (with the South West) (18/3) 1830 -2000**  
**YDW visits Sheffield Central Teenage meeting (20/3) 1025**  
**Yorkshire youth worker volunteer support day (31/3)**  
**Yorkshire youth work volunteer support zoom (31/3) 1900**  
**Online Epilogue (3/4) 1830-2030**  
**Online Youth Group (10/4) 1915-2045**  
**Online Youth Group (with the South West) (24/4) 1915-2045**  
**Grand Yorkshire Youth Walk (14/5)**  
**Online Epilogue (1/5) 1830-2030**  
**Yorkshire youth work volunteer support zoom (28/4) 1900**

**Quaker Youthwork events**

**Sign ups/chats/further info**  
**[quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/youthwork-activities/](http://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/youthwork-activities/)**  
**[Jonathonb@quaker.org.uk](mailto:Jonathonb@quaker.org.uk)**  
**07529221651/02076631173**

## Facilitating Quaker Groups – Saturday 7 May 2022

A day workshop ( 10.30am to 3.30pm ) led by Bridget Holtom, BYM Local Development Worker, and James McCarthy of the Kindlers. Saturday 7 May 2022, Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds.

Would you like to run a group in your meeting but are not sure where to start? Do you want to learn how to facilitate effective, inclusive and interesting events? This workshop will help you become more confident in leading Quaker groups for exploration and reflection. We will draw on a range of approaches with the emphasis on discovering what works best.

Cost: £10

Application to James McCarthy <mailto:james.mccarthy90@ntlworld.com> (01904 330977)

## Yearly Meeting 2022

Yearly Meeting 2022 will take place between 27–30 May with preparation events from 21 May. Some Quakers will take part online, while others will attend in person at Friends House. There will be in-person events suitable for different ages, and some online.

The theme will be 'faith, community and action' and will address three big questions:

- Faith: How do we experience worship, community and witness?
- Community: How can we build Quaker communities that respond to challenges and put faith into action?
- Action: How can we transform thinking and action in Quaker communities and wider society?

Attendance is open to all Members and Attenders. To book go to <https://www.quaker.org.uk/ym/bookings>

## Yorkshire Friends Holiday School 2022

The Yorkshire Friends Holiday School will once again be held at Bootham School in York, from Sunday 21st to Sunday 28th August 2022.

Holiday School is open to all who are associated with a Local Meeting of the Society of Friends, either as Members or Attenders. Non-Quakers are also very welcome.

Applicants must be aged between 13 and 18 on 31st August 2022.

Application forms are now available online via the link at [www.yfhs.org.uk](http://www.yfhs.org.uk). For a paper copy of the application form please contact <mailto:fhssecretary@gmail.com>

## Junior Holidays 2022

Junior Holidays are short adventure breaks for young people from the QiY area. They are a chance for young people to meet, to get to know each other and spend time away from their family in a Quaker group. There are two events this year:

- 24-26 June 2022 at Nell Bank, Ilkley (age 7 to 15)
- 16-18 September 2022 at Barmoor, Hutton le Hole, Pickering (age 7 to 12)

For bookings contact Bronwen Alty: <mailto:bronwenalty@gmail.com> or 07843 485 645

## Glenthorne Guest House and Conference Centre

Glenthorne is a long-established guest house and meeting place in Grasmere. It is open to anyone who is seeking a relaxed welcoming atmosphere, comfortable accommodation, and delicious home-cooked meals in stunning surroundings. The aim is to meet the differing needs of guests in a peaceful atmosphere with Quaker values and ethos. Half the trustees are appointed by Quakers in Yorkshire.

To book go to: <https://glenthorne.org/>

Glenthorne runs a popular series of courses. The following still have places:

- Monday 6th – Friday 10th June: Walking with the Alexander Technique. Led by Hilary Cook
- Friday 10th – Sunday 12th June: Méttá Meditation. Led by Adam Dacey
- Monday 13th – Friday 17th June: Music as Spiritual Nourishment. Led by John & Diana Lampen
- Friday 17th – Sunday 19th June: Tai-Chi & Chi Kung Silk Reeling. Led by Kim Noy-Man Jackson
- Monday 27th June – Friday 1st July: Creative Spiritual Poetry. Led by Freya Blyth
- Friday 15th – Sunday 17th July: A Concise History of the Quaker Way. Led by Ben Pink Dandelion

## Who are the Yorkshire Local and Youth Development Workers?

Bridget Holtom and Jo Baynham are the Local and Youth Development Workers for Yorkshire. They interviewed each other at a recent Quaker Life team meeting about what matters to them in their work and wider lives and shared stories about what has shaped who they are. From parenting to collecting stones, this is what they said.

### Bridget interviews Jo

**Bridget:** Hello Jo. So, you're a father and a youth worker, tell me how that has shaped who you are? How did holding your oldest daughter for the first time change your world and change your work?

**Jo:** Thanks Bridget. Being a parent of two girls, aka a 'girl-dad' made me reassess the world and totally shifted my thinking. I grew up with two bigger brothers - and I'm pretty big(!) - and being boys we were always told and taught that our bodies were tools to overcome environments. That we could do what we wanted with them, achieve what we put our minds and bodies to.

But girls are taught that their bodies need to be upgraded and adorned. That you are what you look like not who you are or what you do. They are sold products from such a young age.

I want my daughters to be known for that they sat, not what they wear or how they appear.

**Bridget:** and how do you do that? How do you foster that?

**Jo:** Well there's two sides to it really. There's a protective side, that rails against the world which sells them stuff they don't need. But mostly it's the way I try to help them see through that stuff. It's not necessarily about changing the world but about fostering in them a confidence to see through the stuff they are told or sold. Try to foster a confidence in the outdoors and a confidence that they can try their hand at anything, achieve what they want to regardless of what society tells or sells young girls.

**Bridget:** and how does that feminist perspective influence how you do youth work?

**Jo:** I work with young people of all genders to have that sort of confidence through building relationships, friendships. And as a man, I use my position to challenge dialogue and teach consent. Words are really powerful and we have to watch how we use them. I call out toxic traits in lads and establish ground rules in groups and on residential that create environments where young people feel valued for what they say and do.

I want to be a good ancestor by being badass at safeguarding and making sure all children and young people are safe physically and safe to be themselves fully in intergenerational community.

**Bridget:** Thank you Jo. Finally, what message do you have for future generations?

Don't let anyone tell you what to do!

## **Jo interviews Bridget**

Bridget Holtom: Kindling the embers of Quakerism in Yorkshire.

"I feel at home when I'm surrounded by Yorkshire accents", Bridget tells me, in her lilting accent. Smiling, she speaks warmly of the Aunties, Uncles and 'Quaker Grannies' of the Quaker community she grew up with in Hebden Bridge. It becomes clear that connection is everything for Bridget, as she carefully describes the weaving together of people and faith, ethereal skiens that runs through that place, her relationship with the Yorkshire countryside that surrounds it. "Quakerism is the container of my belonging," she tells me "I love that it's a broad enough vessel for all of my complexities, and that no-one judges me, or anyone else, for doing things their own way."

Describing herself as a Quaker Witch, Bridget and I chat about the persecutions and injustices of the Witch-Hunting times in Yorkshire and Lancashire (which were also times of Quaker ascendancy). I slowly come to realise that Bridget holds qualities which are absolutely invaluable to her work with Quakers, but also which would likely have gotten her killed, along with so many others in the 17th Century.

Bridget lives very close to nature, appreciating the seasons with wonder and curiosity in an obvious way. Our little office next to (but not in, dearest reader) Carlton Hill Meeting House, is full of illustrated verse beautifully calligraphed by Bridget. This verse constantly invites the reader to go out into the quiet of nature to let nature minister to screen-exhausted mind. Exploring this more in conversation she tells the story of forgetting that she'd packed a 3kg boulder in her carry-on luggage at the airport, as a memento of a sunny holiday.

"Well Ms Holtom, if you can't tell me what this shape on the x-ray is, or how it got into your bag, we shall have to open it and have a look",

In my mind's eye I see the poor security person's expression when they reveal the stone, to a cry of "oh that, my souvenir, don't worry I'll give it back to the land in Yorkshire at some point!"

Similarly, I recall waiting, laptop in hand in the refectory at Woodbrooke, waiting to grab Bridget to chat about some frightfully important piece of work or other, but at the same time not wanting to interrupt her clear, barefooted enjoyment of the fractal patterns of sunlight caused by the breeze running through the top of the Red Cedar that stands by the labyrinth.

Beyond her striking love of nature Bridget speaks her mind clearly and frequently, holding a level of social and interpersonal intuitiveness which ranges from uncanny to downright spooky.

Her ability to ask the right questions, at exactly the right moment, with little regard for the rank or station of the listener in a manner which feels both professional and witchy. There's a delicate weaving of kindness a challenge in Bridget's speaking that elucidates the truth in the structures of power she encounters and challenges and exposes in a non-violent, non-destructive way.

From Lollard to Leveller to Witch, the church of the 14th –16th Centuries persecuted religious dissidents who voiced the value of Commonality and Community. Values we now embrace as the heart of the Quaker way in the 21st Century. We are lucky indeed to have our own Quaker Witch in Yorkshire.

## **Financing of the Yorkshire Youth Development Work**

The first three years of the Yorkshire Youth Development Work ran from 2018 to 2021 and was a BYM funded project – using funds given by legacies. The project, together with a second one based in Bristol, was deemed a success. Everyone agreed that Lee Lester was making a real difference, particularly in the Sheffield area. There was a strong desire for the work to continue and for it to cover the whole of the QiY region. BYM did not have the funds to continue to support the work, so it was up to Yorkshire Friends to see if they could raise the necessary money. To start the fund-raising, Quakers in Yorkshire in April 2021 agreed to give BYM the residue of the Adult School Union Fund (£26,024.11). This meant that BYM had sufficient money to fund the current Youth Development Worker post for about nine months. However Lee Lester decided to move on and this meant a gap until Jo Baynham was appointed in January 2022.

The BYM fund-raising team then started working with Yorkshire Friends to fund-raise both from individuals and from meetings. Last autumn the seven Area Meetings were approached asking for support. The response has been very positive and Area Meetings have committed sufficient funds for at least another full year after September 2022, and most AMs have agreed funds for three years.

## Quakers in Yorkshire Website

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

The website is a repository for resources on activities and events in the region of Quakers in Yorkshire. It contains the programme and minutes and QiY quarterly meetings both current and for the last five years. Details of all area and local meetings in the region and how to contact them are maintained. QiY Trustees minutes and policies are provided. There is a page of links to Quaker bodies in Britain and Europe.

The website is currently maintained by David Olver [david@olver.plus.com](mailto:david@olver.plus.com)

## Future quarterly meetings

Saturday 16 July 2020 at Scarborough Meeting House, Scarborough

Saturday 15 October 2020 at The Mount School, York

## Contacts

Co-Clerk	David Bunney	<a href="mailto:david_bunney@hotmail.com">david_bunney@hotmail.com</a>
Co-Clerk	Gavin Burnell	<a href="mailto:quakers@crojack.org">quakers@crojack.org</a>
Treasurer	Chris Petrie	<a href="mailto:chrishpetrie@gmail.com">chrishpetrie@gmail.com</a>
Clerk of Trustees	David Olver	<a href="mailto:david@olver.plus.com">david@olver.plus.com</a>
Local Development Worker	Bridget Holtom	<a href="mailto:BridgetH@quaker.org.uk">BridgetH@quaker.org.uk</a>
Youth Development Worker	Jo Baynham	<a href="mailto:JonathonB@quaker.org.uk">JonathonB@quaker.org.uk</a>

## July Newsletter Deadline

Items for the July 2022 Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter should be sent to David Olver by 19 June 2022.