

Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire

held at Ackworth Meeting House 23rd April 2022

Representatives:

Brighouse West Yorkshire

Pickering & Hull Area Meeting

Central Yorkshire Area Meeting

Sheffield & Balby Area Meeting

Deak Kirkham, Maureen Pritchard

York Area Meeting

Craven & Keighley Area Meeting
*David Olver, Chris Petrie (prevented),
David Heslop*

Ruth McCarthy, Rosie Roberts, Jane
Tod, Barbara Windle

Leeds Area Meeting

Pat Gerwat

QiY 22/04/01 Reading

In our opening worship we have heard read Quaker Faith & Practice, paragraph 24.12

QiY 22/04/02 Testimony: Bridget Robson

We have heard read a testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend Bridget Robson of Carlton Hill Local Meeting as accepted by Leeds Area Meeting on 18th January 2022. We endorse the testimony and thank the Friends involved in its preparation.

QiY 22/04/03 Welcome and Elders

Our co-clerks have welcomed us to our first in-person only meeting for two years and have explained the arrangements for the day. We ask Ruth McTighe and Janet Naudin to serve as Elders for today's meeting.

QiY 22/04/04 Appointment Matters

a) Releases

We have received requests to be released from service from the following Friends:

Roger Pierce from the Retreat Nominations Committee
Chris Fellowes from Quaker in Yorkshire Nominations Committee

Louise Brown from Quaker Outreach Projects Committee
Linda Southwick from Quaker Outreach Projects Committee

We agree to these requests and release the Friends accordingly. We give thanks for their service in these roles.

b) Appointments

We receive the following nomination for an Old Scholar Governor position on the Mount School Committee and Board of Governors.

Gillian Enevoldsen to serve from now until 31/12/2025

Quakers in Yorkshire have previously appointed a representative to sit on the North Yorkshire Standing Advisory Committee on Religious Education (SACRE) although this appointment has lapsed for some time. Although not part of Quakers in Yorkshire, Wensleydale and Swaledale Area Meeting also cover some of the geographical area encompassed by the North Yorks SACRE and their nominations committee have sent us the following nomination:

Sarah Beveridge, an attender at Leyburn Local Meeting

The normal term of service on North Yorks SACRE is unknown and so this nomination will be from now until 31/12/2024 in the first instance.

These nominations being acceptable, we appoint the Friends named accordingly.

We ask our clerks and arrangements committee to consider when it would be appropriate to hear more of the work of the N Yorks. SACRE.

c) Nominations Required

We note that the following nominations are being sought:

A further co-opted member of the Mount School Committee

A member for the Retreat Nominations Committee

A nomination from Pickering and Hull Area Meeting for a member of QiY Nominations Committee

Nominations from Sheffield and Balby Area Meeting and York Area Meeting for members of the Quaker Outreach Projects Committee

A nomination from Brighouse West Yorkshire Area Meeting for a QiY Trustee.

We thank Quakers in Yorkshire's, and all the Area Meetings', Nominations Committees for their efforts to bring forward names of Friends willing to serve and look forward to considering nominations at a future meeting.

QiY 22/04/05 Bradford Peace Museum

We have been given an informative and interesting presentation on the work of the Bradford Peace Museum by its chair of trustees, Clive Barrett and Keith Reaves a member of Skipton Meeting and also trustee of the museum.

The peace museum originates in the work of the *Give Peace a Chance* trust founded by Gerald Drewitt, a Quaker from Hertfordshire, and there has been an ongoing Quaker influence over the 30 plus years of the museum's existence. About half of the current trustee body are Quakers. The museum was founded following an international conference of peace museums in 1992 with a box of peace campaigning posters and in space provided by Bradford city council.

Today, the museum has 9000 items in its accession register with a huge variety of objects beyond the original collection of posters. Clive discussed some of these objects and how they tell stories of peace.

The objects in the collection come from all over the world - fragments of the Berlin Wall, a tile from Nagasaki, a copy of the Treaty of Versailles. The oldest item is a small obelisk made from the wood of the tree under which William Penn made a peace treaty with the existing inhabitants of the land granted as the colony of Pennsylvania. Some of the history is complex and in recent times the trustees have grappled, for example, with the history of slave owning by William Penn and other notable figures from peace history.

Exhibits in the museum cover making peace, telling stories from communities and nations in conflict. The Nobel Peace Prize provides a source of further objects in the collection - with some artworks commissioned to mark the award of the prize being held by the museum. Peace Activism and the memories of peace protestors are also a source of material for the collections, from first world war conscientious objectors through to the CND campaigns of the 1980s and the women's peace camp at Greenham Common Airbase. As well as the exhibits from its own collection, the museum has hosted temporary exhibitions from a wide variety of national and international sources.

The pandemic forced the museum to revamp its online presence with special online exhibitions and effort to bring the entire collection to the online presence. The museum has been working hard at bringing in more professional staff to up the quality of the work. Recently the museum was shortlisted in a national competition in the best small museum category for the quality of its community engagement.

An increasingly important part of the museum's work is its education programme and it works in partnership with local authorities and schools around topics such as countering far right extremism and immigration and refugees. The museum is not a

campaigning organisation, but its role is to promote the asking of questions of peace history, building the foundations of a culture of peace.

Clive spoke of the enthusiasm of the museum staff in bringing life to the collections as well as engaging with contemporary peace activism and movements in the context of the war in Ukraine.

A major limitation for the museum is its premises - it is housed in a small galley up four long flights of stairs and it is not fit for purpose for the scale of work being undertaken. Through fundraising the museum has built up reserves to enable it to move to bigger premises and the trustees are close to completing arrangements to move to a new location and open an exciting new chapter of the museum's history. There are new funding sources being opened up to facilitate this move, but the new scale and tempo of work will, however, mean a need for continued and increased funding.

A copy of CLive's presentation will be placed on the Quakers in Yorkshire Website.

QliY 22/04/06 Racial Justice Group Update

Ruth McTighte has introduced our consideration, focussing on the theme of last year's Yearly Meeting Gathering, *For our Comfort and Discomfort : Living equality and truth in a time of crisis: how can we be allies?* Ruth discussed allies as people who use their privilege to magnify the voice of the marginalised and under-represented, who take action and initiative, develop relations and build empathy.

It is important to remember that we are not just members of a single group, be it privileged or under-represented. As Ruth told us, you can yourself be a member of a marginalised group while being an ally to people in a different group, such as, for example, a straight disabled person campaigning for LGBTQ+ rights.

Rosie Roberts then spoke of an example of this through a group *Speak up Diversity* operating in York to address systemic racism in and discrimination across civil institutions in York. Rosie spoke of what being an ally might mean in this context.

The Quaker Youth Development worker for Yorkshire, Jo Baynham, told us of the work he did at Easter settlement with young people aged 6-12 on allyship, privilege and intersectionality through the biblical story of the Ethiopian Eunuch (Acts 8:26-40). These issues are important to children and young people, but the challenge can be to find the language and approach that can engage them and to reduce it to "grown up talk".

In our consideration we have have been remind of the importance of listening up, and empathy but to balance the need to speak truth whilst not turning off those we wish to influence by seeming closed to conflicting views.

Copies of the presentation slides will be placed on the Quakers in Yorkshire Website.

QiY 22/04/07 Testimony: Eva I Pinthus

We have heard read a testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend Eva I Pinthus of Ilkley Local Meeting as accepted by Leeds Area Meeting on 18th January 2022. We endorse the testimony and thank the Friends involved in its preparation.

QiY 22/04/08 Book of Discipline Revision

We have been led in a consideration of the Book of Discipline Revision by Rosie Carnall and Rachel Muers of the Yearly Meeting's Book of Discipline Revision Committee. Rosie has given us a flavour of how the committee has worked inspired the minute of Yearly Meeting to be prayerful, joyful, creative and bold. The committee has continued to work around seven themes: spirituality, worship and discernment; Quakercommunity; Testimony and Faith in Action; Stages of Personal Life; ChurchGovernment; Our story and Advices and Queries. Weaving through all, the committee has identified some common threads

- We can all have direct access to a transforming experience of the divine
- We live under the guidance of the promptings of love and truth in our hearts
- We recognise and seek to address that of God in every person
- There is a dynamic spirit bringing continuing revelation
- We hold the whole of life to be sacramental

An important question for the revision committee is the *voice of the book* - how we as Quakers speak to one another about the things that matter most to us. There are the anthology passages where there is a named source, passages that are minutes of various Quaker bodies and passages written by various revision committees. Each of these may read with different voices.

Working in two groups we have engaged in creative writing about worship, and in exploring further the voice of the book. In the creative writing session we shared what we thought about, wondered about and knew about worship. Friends are encouraged to share their writing with the online padlet being run by the book of discipline revision committee¹. The second group looked specifically at how materials on eldership and pastoral care might be introduced into the revised book.

The exercises have made us appreciate the complexity of the task being undertaken by the revision committee - to write new words that describe our current and living faith and practice.

¹ <https://padlet.com/bdrc/OpenToNewLight>

We thank Rosie and Rachel for leading us in our session today.

QiY 22/04/09 Conclusion

There being no further business for today, we conclude, intending to meet again at Scarborough Meeting House on Saturday 16th July 2022 should nothing occur to prevent.



Gavin Burnell

Co-Clerks, Quakers in Yorkshire



David Bunney