

Yorkshire Quaker Link Group

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What?

A regular one night residential in Yorkshire, with food, fun and Quaker input

Who?

Anyone, 11-18 years old with Quaker tendencies or Quaker interest in Yorkshire.

Where?

Keighley Meeting House:
10th (drop offs 1100) 11th
December (pick-ups 1400)



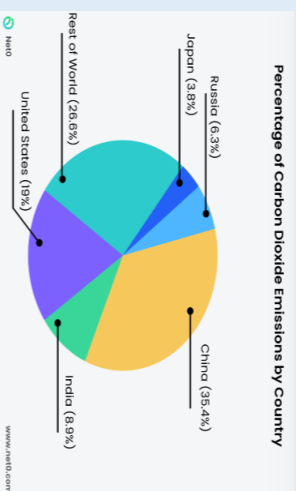
Testimony Focus: China.

Simplicity: Xi Jinping has just been reaffirmed as the leader of the Chinese Communist Party for a historic third term. The CCP had previously made rules to prevent leaders exceeding three terms with a view to preventing the populist, cult of personality type rule that typified Chairman Mao's reign. We know from history that when rulers assume long standing and ultimate power in a country, certain segments of the population of that country tend to suffer whilst others thrive. Throughout history we have seen leaders with near total power, crack down on certain "close to heart" issues whilst ignoring others, with the battle cry "it's all very simple", when in fact the governance of a country is anything but. One of Jingsing's "big things" is Taiwan.

Peace: Jingsing's warlike rhetoric regarding the invasion of the neighbouring island, Taiwan, has gone up a gear since Putin's invasion of Ukraine. Reports suggest both the low-key mobilisation of China's machines of war as well as many public attempts to prepare the populations both in China and Taiwan for a bloody and violent land grab. Jingsing will no doubt be heartened by Europe's lack of direct military aid to Ukraine but will be taking notes on Putin's military mistakes in preparation for his own move which looks increasingly inevitable.

Equality: West China has a large population of indigenous (def: they've always been there) Muslim Uyghurs. China has been persecuting Uyghurs for years, a recent database hack reveals mass incarcerations, forced sterilisations and forced labour without trail. The products (various, but a lot of cotton) of such forced labour find their way into western markets. Much of the UK's fast fashion industry carries the blood and lost hope of the Uyghur people.

Sustainability: Sometimes a picture paints a thousand words.



Truth and integrity: Bloomberg report that the Chinese government requested the social media giant, TikTok, permission to operate at least one (likely many more) account with the express intent of promoting Chinese communist propaganda (def: messages to promote a particular political ideology masquerading as a grassroots movement) to Western audiences. We know from Russian interference in both the US presidential elections and the Brexit referendum that truth and integrity is not at all high on the list of propagandist's priorities.

QUAKER MEMBERS
FOR QUIET
TALKERS



Normal heartbeat

Deceased heartbeat

WHAT IS A QUAKER?

QuakeFlix

Mr Harrigan's Phone and the price of vengeance.

Stephen King's spooky short story about a billionaire and the young man he pays to read literary classics, has recently been taken up by Netflix and adapted into an excellent film.

Like so much of Stephen King's work, you are forever trying to work out if a character is a goodie, or a baddie, only to find that they are neither. All the characters in *Mr Harrigan's Phone* follow this middle-ground pattern.

Harrigan himself is known to be cold, unsentimental and ruthless. When asked by his young reader employee, Craig, how Harrigan dealt with the bullies of his past, Harrigan's one word answer reverberates with violence and malice.

Harshly.

However, Harrigan's clear regard for Craig and his welfare redeems him in the eye of the audience, and certainly in Craig's eyes.

Craig's own bully, Yankovic, gets expelled, and in the scene where he and Craig fight after said expulsion we see the whole theme of the film in miniature. The sorrow, rage and inevitability of revenge. Yankovic, almost in tears, slams Craig against a van:

"Why did you have to do that man, now I have to kick your ass".

Yankovic's violence is an inevitable part of the life he's chosen, and an inevitable consequence of him being (supposedly) informed on by Craig. The line has so much weight and foreboding that you almost know the twist of the film before it happens!

But the twist does come, and with it Craig's shadowy, vengeance-fuelled power. Lessons on sorrow, rage and harshness learned from Yankovic and Harrigan are put into swift action. Craig's rage flashes for a moment, and that moment echoes in his life for ever after, in a way that he can never escape from and will always regret.

We find that in Craig's epilogue, even the unseen, unliving beast of vengeance longs to be free of its vengeful power, seeing the damage that it wreaks. It seems to me that in so doing King makes a very Quakerly point.

The earliest Quakers recognised the self-perpetuating nature of revenge, and what was to be expected as English Civil War settled in. They wanted no part of it.

"We do utterly deny all outward wars and strife and fighting with outward weapons...this is our testimony to the whole world." Quaker Declaration to Charles II.

Friends, are there places in our lives where we need to free ourselves of a vengeful violent cycle?



The Yorkshire Hammock

A flexible and occasional container for all things that intersect Quakers, Young People and Yorkshire – collated by Jo, for young Quakers



Big Questions?

Zoom Wednesday 31st November
1730-1900

In Person 21st December: Community Room; 4th
Floor, John Lewis Leeds 1400-1600

Big Questions is a online
and inperson youth event
with Jo and Jude where we
explore the big stuff together.

Links and expressions
of interest
Jonathonb@quaker.org.uk

What is non-theism?

Life after death?

Quaker Youth Events in Yorkshire and Beyond				
Online	Residential	Day Event	Worship	
<p>A note about sign up forms and links: Broadly speaking there are two forms that govern Quaker Youth work in Yorkshire. Yorkshire online Youth work form Yorkshire in person youth work form</p> <p>Certain activities have ancillary or proprietary booking forms, for example JH, YFHS & Link Group residential. BYM events, notably Epilogue, have central sign up forms.</p> <p>How to be kept in the loop This link leads the Youth workers direct mailing list, communications are targeted by demographic; young people, parents, meeting role holders, newsletter editor and notice readers are all encouraged to sign up Click to sign up to regular QJY youth work updates</p>				
JWhat	Where	Date	How to book	Description
Online Epilogue	Online	06/11/2022	Enrol for Epilogue	Online youth Epilogue
Yorkshire Link Group Online	Online	1900-2030 7/11/22	Yorkshire online Youth work form	Online Yorkshire Youthwork with Jo, themes, games and worship
Youth walk: Leeds	Meet Carlton Hill Meeting house	Revised date! 12/11/22 1400-1600	Yorkshire in person youth work form	A social tramp around Leeds, seeking coffee, doughnuts and architecture
Leeds AM teen meeting; Carlton Hill Meeting house	Carlton Hill Meeting House	20/11/22 1045-1145	Accompanied young people (ie. Adults in main meeting) just show up. Unaccompanied young people Yorkshire in person youth work form	Worship followed by drinks and biscuits
Online youth work with the West region	Online	20/11/22 1900-2030	Yorkshire online Youth work form	Formerly known as SWYFAN. Games, Quaker themes and worship with Jo and Zephyr
Big Questions [Online]	New Event! Online	30/11/11 1730-1900	Yorkshire online Youth work form	Exploring "life, the universe and everything" type questions with Jo and Jude
Online Epilogue Yorkshire Link Group Online	Online	04/12/2022	Enrol for Epilogue	Online youth Epilogue
Link Group residential	Keighley Meeting House	10-11/12/22 Drop offs 1100 Pick ups 1400	Register for link Group Keighley You will also need to complete this form if you haven't already	The first Yorkshire Link Group Activities Saturday day, a party in the evening, a sleep over then all age MFW on the Sunday.
Leeds AM teen meeting; Carlton Hill Meeting house	Carlton Hill Meeting House	18/12/22 1045-1145	Accompanied young people (ie. Adults in main meeting) just show up. Unaccompanied young people Yorkshire in person youth work form	Worship followed by drinks and biscuits
Big Questions [Live]	New Event! Carlton Hill Garden Room	21/12/22 1400-1600	Yorkshire in person youth work form	Exploring "life, the universe and everything" type questions with Jo and Jude

A chat with an activist; The calling of rage and love

Bridget Holtom.

Jo; Tell me a story!

Bridget: Well, I suppose my best one was being arrested protesting on the roof of the Scottish Parliament. At the time, Israel was doing some serious and violent land grabs in the Gaza strip in occupied Palestine. There was so little media coverage, my friends and I decide we had to do something, especially as we had personal links with people in the area. We felt called to make a statement: not in our name!

Jo; I'm interested in that word, called, what do you mean?

Bridget: I feel anger at the injustice in the world, I can't help feel it – if I take action I enter into compassion, solidarity and empathy with people in powerless situations, and that helps change situations and me. It's a calling of both rage and love. If I don't take action I feel this staleness and hardness, a deep dissatisfaction. It feels a bit like Ministry in Worship sometimes, when you're not quiet brave enough to speak when you know you should in your heart. You come away feeling a discontent and disjointed, it's a bit like that.

Jo; A calling of Rage and Love, that's a great phrase! It sounds like your activism is a key part of your spirituality. Tell me, how do you even get onto the roof of the Scottish Parliament?

Bridget: It's surprisingly easy! There's a grass bank at the back, and then it's a very little climb and you're on there...not that I'm encouraging any Edinburgh folks to try it!

Jo: Good to know! What did your protest look like?

Bridget: We picked a time that we know that the parliament was in session, we wanted to peacefully disrupt and raise awareness. We shouted, we sang, we had a big banner! We were up there for a good few hours! It rained a fair bit. In the end a policeman coaxed us down with tea and blankets, it was really cold! We were arrested, spent a night in a cell but weren't charged in the end.

Jo: Does all your activism look like that?

Bridget: No not at all! I'm really interested in what it means to stay an activist. Activism can be really costly, if can affect whether you can apply for jobs, whether you have a criminal record, but also it can be emotionally costly. I was working alongside migrants in Glasgow a few years ago, as they struggled with documentation, and I came close to emotional, physical and spiritual exhaustion. I was tired and stressed and felt the weight of the world on my shoulders and the urgency of action. Being close to the risks and hardships of people I deeply cared about, began to leave no space for joy, I got really sick and nearly gave up but I found ways to manage, and sustain myself, I discovered within myself a deep mysterious resilience which changed my perspective. *(Bridget has a whole podcast – Sustenance, on spotty and other platforms, that deals specifically with activist burnout).* Now I begin to think of my activism with a big "A" and a small "a". The Big A stuff is Scottish Parliament roof top stuff, and campaigning for migrant rights, small "a" stuff is more about making sure that activist meetings have available food, or that childcare is in place, sometimes activism is about hugs and cups of tea.

Jo: have you heard about the latest additions to the public order bill?

Bridget: no, what's happening?

Jo: its literally happening in the house of commons right now, Suella Braverman (Home Secretary) is attempting to push through a last-minute amendment to the public order bill that would allow her to electronically ankle tag citizens she thinks are likely to protest and disrupt key infrastructure (this is code for XR, Just Stop Oil and Insulate now, IMHO friends) before they have even done anything.

Bridget: No trial?

Jo: No Trial, no hearing, no nothing, just a suspicion that they might protest. How does that make you feel?

Bridget: Like I need to take action! I know from my other work with migrants that the electronic tagging of foreign nationals and ex-offenders is a form of imprisonment. The idea that you can imprison someone without a trial... on a hunch... the idea that risk to key infrastructure justifies the lack of humanity that ankle tagging brings is really worrying, it feeds the idea that its an okay thing, to be done to someone, or anyone. Our Quakerism is important here. Equality means that there is no one undeserving of freedom and dignity, our spiritual view of equality helps us break down the negative moral coding of society which takes so much from us. In the end our liberation is shared, if we don't defend people on the margins, we inevitably find our own rights eroded.