



Quakers in Yorkshire Link Group

Report 18/01/2025



What is Link group for?

Community for young people (school years 7-13)

A distinctly Quaker space

Place for young people to explore and learn about Quaker themes – including our testimonies, values, and practices

With a view to nurturing and upholding their whatever gifts and convictions they have

Friendship and fun

Relief and respite from some of the daily anxieties they might have



What do we do at Link group events?

Banner making

Breathwork

Eldering/
organising MfW

Fireside
philosophy
stories

Spirituality
discussions

Making lanterns

Board games

Yoga

Eating together

Going for walks

Pastoral chats

'Chaos with
Limes'

Some things we've learned so far

Mobile phone prison – having phones taken away for most of the weekend greatly improved engagement in many ways

New system for mealtimes – randomised seating and keeping noise down

Pastoral care works better with regular, returning volunteers (and a good number of volunteers)

The young people enjoy taking part in deep conversations, and respond well to their ideas being taken seriously

Some of the best memories are

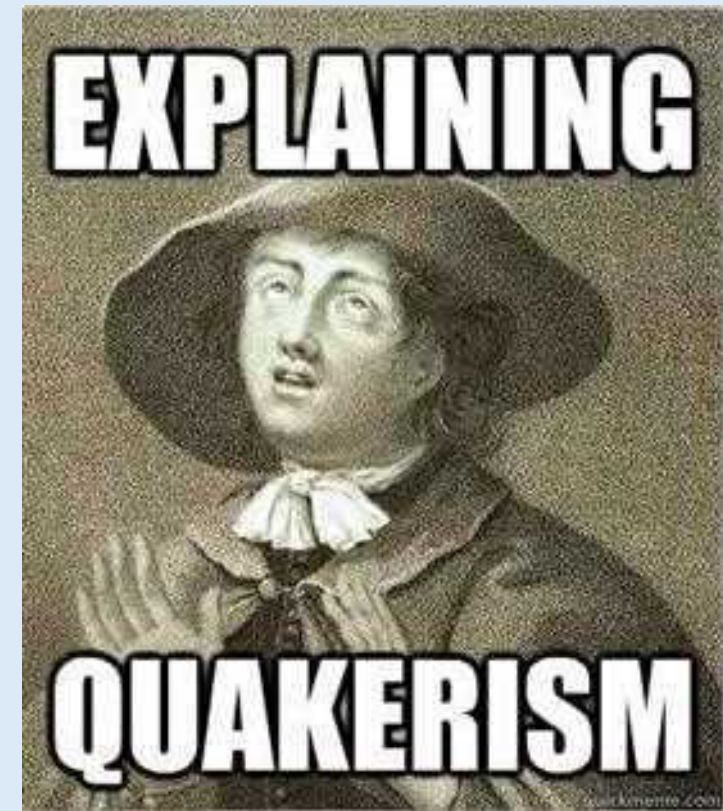


What we are still learning

How to support the young people taking ownership of their Quaker communities and convictions – finding the line between structured support and giving open freedom to explore

How to talk about Quaker concepts – how to open and facilitate dialogue about, e.g. what happens in a MfW, what ministry is

How to foster and encourage ministry from young people – both in and outside their Quaker meeting



Some highlights

Campfire-style singing with hot chocolate after a power outage

Dressing as famous historic Quakers and walking around York talking about mental health, gay rights, and martyrdom

Sessions on Quakerism leading up to a Meeting for Worship eldered and organised by some of the young people

Reading and talking about Quaker theology by firelight together

Hearing the young people start to offer vocal ministry in MfWs

Volunteering culture

It's also important that people volunteering at Link group feel supported and valued!

Jo has been offering all of us moral and practical support to develop as youth workers

We're encouraged to pursue our individual gifts and interests within link group, without feeling overburdened



