

Quakers in Yorkshire

Quarterly Meeting held at

Harrogate FMH

on Saturday 19th July 2025

1. Representatives

A total of 30 Friends attended in person, with 6 Friends joining us online for the business meeting.

2. Reading

In our opening worship we have heard read Advices & Queries number 18.

3. Testimony

We have heard a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend Mary Rowlands, latterly of Pickering and Hull AM

We thank the Friends concerned for preparing this testimony and add our endorsement.

4. Welcome

Our clerks have welcomed us to this, our third meeting of 2025, and introduced our agenda. The theme this time is young people and families, with a picnic and activities on the Stray, weather permitting, after a business meeting in the morning session. The day will end with a meeting for worship before the day closes at 4pm.

Sarah Whittington welcomed us to Harrogate and dealt with the housekeeping matters for today.

We appoint Liz Collins and John Margham to act as Elders for this meeting.

5. Reports

A) QiY Trustees

David Olver, Clerk to QiY Trustees, has spoken to the report for 2024 from QiY Trustees. This has been placed on the QiY website together with his summary to this meeting.

Supportive comments were made about the benefits of a funded Youth Development worker and a question was raised about access to restricted funds.

B) Breckenbrough School

John Margham, Chair of Governors, has reported to us on the life of Breckenbrough during the year 2024-25. The full report will be available on the QiY website, and Friends are encouraged to access the report, to uphold the school in its endeavours to provide support for up to 70 boys and young men. New facilities may also open up opportunities for girls.

There are moves to change the Articles of Association to open service at committee level, relating to the chair and deputy chair, to those in sympathy with Quakerism rather than being in membership.

We thank John for his inspiring report and for his service to Breckenbrough School.

C) Glenthorne

Ellie McCarthy has read a report from William Taylor chair of trustees at Glenthorne for 2024. There is an enthusiastic community that helps to open the resource to those in need of support as well as making the facilities available for others to enjoy.

We thank William Taylor for his report and Ellie for reading it.

This report will be available to read on the QiY website.

D) Local Development Worker

Craig Barnett has spoken of his plans for the next 12 months as the Local Development Worker for Yorkshire. He has been in post for two years, aiming to develop rather than just maintaining and today he focused on two main strands.

Last weekend there was a second re-wilding day for families in Hull. In May there were six families, last weekend there were eleven. We can see the development of a younger membership, as there are no children's meetings in Hull and Pickering AM, all supported by the Sir James Reckitt charity.

One trend he wants to change is the decline in children's meetings. By working with 12 LMs there are very positive signs for new meetings, which means a growth in attendance at meeting for worship. Sheffield Central has seen 20 families start to attend on a regular basis and many are attending the Quaker summer camp. Demand for the all-age camp is up to four times the number of places that are available, to feel the joy of being in a community.

All events will feature in the QiY newsletter throughout the year as well as being placed on the QiY website.

There is much about which we can be positive, and we hope that this message will be felt throughout Yorkshire in the coming months.

We thank Craig for his report and the work that he is undertaking on our behalf.

6. Racial Justice

We have received a report from Ruth McTighe on behalf of Racial Justice group. Links and slides that support her report are placed on the QiY website.

Her theme is 'Ethnic Inequalities in the Criminal Justice System' with reference to a particular case of which she is personally aware. She wonders whether the young person, of mixed race, is being discriminated against. Several statistics do point to such discrimination.

What can we do? We can inform ourselves. Ruth made us aware of Quakers in Criminal Justice, a Quaker Recognised Body. We also had a contribution from someone with personal professional experience of the criminal justice system. The next annual conference of Quakers in Criminal Justice is to take place at Hinsley Hall in Leeds in February 2026. Further details can be found at:

<https://www.qicj.org/>

The Racial Justice group is small; there are only three current members. Recruits are required and should contact Ruth.

We thank Ruth for bringing this particular issue to our attention.

7. Appointments and Releases

a. Thanks

We give thanks for the service of all those Friends whose appointments for Quakers in Yorkshire have been completed since our last meeting.

b. Releases

We agree to the following requests for release.

Alison Clarke of York AM from the QiY Nominations group.

Janet Connolly from Breckenbrough School Committee.

We thank Alison and Janet for their service.

c. Appointments

(i) Our Nominations Committee has brought us the following nominations for service:

Breckenbrough School Committee	Digby Swift (S & B AM)	01/01/2026-31/12/2029 Second term
Bootham School	Cathy Woodbine	01/01/2026-31/12/2029 Second term
Trustee, Glenthorne Management Committee	Marie Therese Lebacq (C&K AM)	19/07/2025 - 31/12/27

These nominations being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed accordingly.

(ii) Area Meeting nominations committees bring us the following nominations for service:

QiY Trustee	Judy Shorney [C&K AM]	19/07/2025 - 31/12/2027
QiY Nominations	Susan Robson [Leeds AM]	19/07/2025 - 31/12/2027

(iii) The Schools.

The Mount School brings forward the name of Judith Campbell, of York AM and an educationalist to serve on the Mount School Committee from 1st September 2025 to 31st August 2029.

This nomination being acceptable, we appoint the Friend named accordingly.

We thank all these Friends for accepting nomination for service.

8. The York Schools

Quakers in Yorkshire: introduction on York Schools at July 2025 QM

This year Bootham School and The Mount School (the York Schools) jointly approached QiY trustees to request a relief on a right of revocation held by QiY on property managed by the schools. This revocation is in a Deed of Direction signed by the Trustees of Yorkshire General Meeting and the schools in 2001. This right of revocation is now constraining the schools' ability to obtain loans made against their assets. They have proposed additional clauses in the Deed of Direction that remove the need for the right of revocation.

The York Schools also presented trustees with proposed changes to the Memorandum of Understanding between Quakers in Yorkshire and the schools and linked changes to the schools' Articles of Association. The objective is to make them more relevant to the present environment that is marked by an increase in statutory and regulatory requirements on schools and their governance.

QiY trustees considered the proposal at their meeting in June 2025 and asked Digby Swift and David Bunney to meet with representatives of the schools to discuss the proposals.

After a productive meeting, further proposals, as well as a clearer definition of priorities, have been submitted to trustees. This includes a further revised Memorandum of Understanding and a Deed of Variation of the 2001 Deed of Direction.

Today QiY trustees are asking Quarterly Meeting to authorise the trustees to agree, on behalf of QiY, changes to the legal documents and Memorandum of Understanding so that the relationship with the York schools is robust for the future.

This meeting is content that QiY trustees together with QiY Clerks may work on our behalf with the York Schools to conclude a satisfactory agreement relating to the Memorandum of Understanding and the Deed of Direction.

9. Notices

There were no notices.

10. Afternoon Session

Our afternoon activities were altered by the change in the weather. There was plenty of conversation, board games and some delicious pizza, courtesy of Jo Baynham and his team of young helpers.

11. Thanks to Harrogate Friends

The concept for our meeting today has meant quite a bit of organising to produce such a wonderful day of celebration. The support and hospitality by Friends from Harrogate LM is much appreciated and the work of Jo Baynham meant that we enjoyed our day in Harrogate.

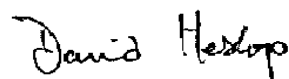
12. Concluding Minute

There being no further business to be taken today, we conclude. We intend to meet again in person at Bootham School, York on Saturday 11th October 2025, should nothing occur to prevent.



David Bunney

Clerk



David Heslop

Assistant Clerk