
Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter

January 2026

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Welcome to the January Newsletter!

Here you will find events, opportunities and news of things going on in Yorkshire, plus details of the January Quakers in Yorkshire meeting.

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Quakers in Yorkshire Meetings

Join us for our quarterly meetings, where we bring together people and

topics to generate thought, action and a rich, shared experience. Our meetings are open to all Friends: members and attenders.

17th January - Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds

18th April - Ilkley Meeting House

25th July - Beverley Meeting House

10th October - The Mount School, York

See invitation and leaflet below for more details.

QiY 2026 Invitation

January – Elders and Pastoral Care Friends

17.01.26 Leeds Carlton Hill

The theme throughout the day will be Elders and Pastoral Care Friends: the spiritual background, their function and support for the discipline of the Quaker Business Method. We will also hear of the activities of young people at Junior Holidays and Holiday School, the first 'Yorkshire Camp', and of the Easter Gathering.

April – On the 'Quaker Way'

18.04.26 Ilkley Meeting House

A slightly different quarterly meeting: we will look at aspects of Quakerism: three sessions exploring the 'Quaker Business Method'; the spiritual roots of Quakerism; and our Quaker roles.

Note the format of this meeting is slightly different and the day will close at 5.30pm.

July – Our 'Summer Social'

25.07.26 Beverley Meeting House

A day of activities at the Meeting House and around Beverley. In the morning session will hear reports from Glenthorne and Breckenbrough, and from the Quakers in Yorkshire Trustees.

October – Quaker Schools

10.10.26 The Mount School, York

We will hear reports from the leaders of both The Mount School and Bootham School, and the personal witness from students of the significant influence of Quakerism in their everyday lives.

The afternoon programme is still being developed.



What is Quakers in Yorkshire?

Quakers in Yorkshire is a regional gathering of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain (Quakers in Britain). It provides spiritual fellowship and pan-Yorkshire services to members and attenders in its constituent local and area meetings. It covers seven area meetings and 38 local meetings across Yorkshire.

The seven area meetings are:

- Brighouse West Yorkshire
- Central Yorkshire
- Craven & Keighley
- Leeds
- Pickering & Hull
- Sheffield & Balby
- York

Quakers in Yorkshire Meetings are held quarterly and are open to all Quakers in the region. Each meeting starts at 10:30 with worship, includes a 'bring your own' lunch and ends at 16:00.

Quakers in Yorkshire 2026 leaflet

Racial Justice News

Reflections on Language

Language matters. We all know words that are now considered offensive with regard to race, words that are used to express hostility or marginalise others. And the acceptable words change over time, leading to confusion and anxiety, and a fear of getting things wrong.

In 2020 Rosemary Campbell-Stephens, an educator and activist, [wrote a paper](#) that expressed her frustration at the ongoing debates about terminology, in particular the use of terms like “ethnic minority” which define people’s identity in relation to a norm of whiteness.

She coined the term “global majority” referring to people who are "black, Asian, brown, dual-heritage, indigenous to the global south, and or have been racialised as 'ethnic minorities' and "represent approximately 80% of the world's population". She describes her own identity as Black, of African Caribbean descent and heritage, and more specifically Jamaican parentage, and British nationality. And she describes herself as part of the ‘global majority’.

Its use is growing. It has been formally adopted by a number of organisations including the NCVO, and Baltimore Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends. It is increasingly being used by Britain Yearly Meeting. There are of course pros and cons of this approach, and much debate about it. See for example [this BBC article](#).

In the Racial Justice item at Quakers-in-Yorkshire in Leeds on January 17th we will consider this issue further, as well as looking at how the concept of “intersectionality” (addressing different forms of oppression together) affects the way we can respond to the potential divisiveness of identity politics.

Ruth McTighe and Carol-Ann Hooper
QIY Racial Justice Group

Events

Quaker Spring Gathering Easter 2026

Friday 3rd April - Monday 6th April, Cober Hill Hotel and
Conference Centre, Scarborough



No formal programme, simply an opportunity to use the time to meet other Quakers, walk, talk, play games and be creative, plus any other activity you would like to arrange.

Book direct with Cober Hill, Telephone 01723870310 or email receptiondesk@coberhill.co.uk. Website - <https://coberhill.co.uk/> (avoid booking.com). **Mark it YQ (Yorkshire Quakers) so Cober Hill can arrange our meals together.**

Prices are – B&B per night:

Single: £90 Double or twin £130 Family Room: £185

Evening meal will be three courses with hot and cold buffets on Friday and Saturday evening and a three-course waiter service roast on Sunday. Each Priced at £25 per adult, per meal. (Children under 5 are free and children aged 5 – 18 are £12.50 per meal.)

Contact Pauline Leonard (paulineleonard92@gmail.com) or Martin Schweiger (germ.buster@phonecoop.coop) for more details.

Do come and enjoy creating a Quaker Spring Gathering.

Leeds Jewish Quaker Dialogue Group

There will be a meeting of the Leeds Jewish Quaker Dialogue Group at **7pm**
on **Thursday 15th January 2026** in the **School Room at Roundhay**
Quaker Meeting House.

Hilton will lead a discussion on the meaning of Zionism.

Kindly share information about this meeting to any interested Friends, all are welcome.

SAVE THE DATE

*Young Adult Friends
Gathering*

**AT JORDANS FRIENDS MEETING HOUSE
NEAR BEACONSFIELD, UK
12TH–16TH AUGUST 2026**

*A time to listen to the
Inward Voice of Love*





**FIND MORE INFO AT
WWW.YAFGATHERING.ORG**



Independence from America

There will be an event on **4th July 2026** at the **Kettlesing Millennium Village Hall** which is close to Menwith Hill near Harrogate.

Programme is being planned now but will include some presentations on the increased use of space for military purposes, some humour and some music or drama.

If you have suggestions for the programme please send them to:
germ.buster@phonecoop.coop

Booking is now open for Yorkshire Quaker Camp 6-9th August 2026

We have a beautiful new woodland site this year, with some indoor accommodation for those who need a bed.

The camp is affordable for everyone. The cost for the whole weekend (including food) starts at £25 for people on a low wage, and under 11s go free. Partners, friends and family are all welcome.

Book here: <https://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/activities/yorkshire-quaker-camp/>

For further information see the link above or contact:
camp@quakersinyorkshire.org.uk

Youth Events

Youth, Children and Families Residentials for Yorkshire Quakers in 2026.

JYM: 3rd - 7th April. Frontier Centre, Kidderminster. NOMINATIONS
CLOSE 12th January. School years 11-13.

-

Link Group: Harrogate Quaker Meeting - 20th -22nd March. School years
7 to 13

-

Yearly Meeting: including YP@YM (Jo attending) London and the
Frontier Centre Northamptonshire. 1st -4th of May. School years 7 to 10

-

Junior Holidays: Hesley Wood Scout Centre, Sheffield. 8th - 10th May.
School Years 3 to 7

-

Link Group (details TBC) 26th - 28th of June.

-

Yorkshire Quaker Camp. Thornthwaite Scout Centre nr Harrogate. 6th -
9th of August. Families of all kinds and ages

-

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School, Bootham School, York. 16th - 23rd of
August. 13 to 18 years old

-

Junior Holidays Wharfeside House, Kettlewell. 16th -18th of October.
School years 3-5

-

Link Group (location tbc) 4th - 6th of December. School years 7-13



Keep an eye on the Quakers in Yorkshire Youthwork Activities page for more details of events.

**QiY Youthwork Activities
page**

Online and in-person youth events

From Link Groups and national events to online epilogues, [Jo Baynham](#), the Youth Development Worker for Yorkshire, runs regular events for young Quakers through the year.

Keep up to date with events by signing up to Jo's newsletter below.

Quaker Youth Work in Yorkshire

Opportunities



Friend in Residence - amongst mountains and lakes!

Following the retirement of our longstanding Friend in Residence, Glenthorne Quaker Centre is looking for a new person, or couple, to support the Quaker presence in the Centre. The role is varied and includes welcoming guests, leading daily meetings for worship, and arranging and

Patients not Passports seeks to remove the scheme whereby the NHS charges people who cannot prove they are entitled to NHS care. The

scheme deters people who need care from seeking it with the NHS, a significant problem for pregnant women and those with infectious diseases.

There is now a photo exhibition to raise awareness of the scheme and the problems caused. Any group can make arrangements to borrow it. Some Quaker Meetings may wish to display "[Resisting NHS Charging: healthcare in the Hostile Environment](#)". There are 14 A2 sized panels so it requires around 6 meters of wall space. If you wish to borrow it send an email to info@patientsnotpassports

I would be happy to talk to anyone thinking of displaying the exhibition.
Martin Schweiger

E-mail: germ.buster@phonecoop.coop

Tel: 0113 4400736

Mobile: 07760311406

Worfolk Cottage – An Eco-Friendly Retreat on the Yorkshire Coast



Worfolk is an eco-friendly holiday cottage on the east coast of Yorkshire, nestled between Whitby and Scarborough. Sleeping up to 14 people, it offers a peaceful and sustainable setting for family gatherings, retreats, or

use as a Quaker study centre.

You can find more information on our website: <https://worfolkcottage.com/>

We are delighted to be able to offer the following:

- A 10% discount available to Quakers during our off-peak season, and discounted rates are offered to Quaker groups.
- Gift vouchers are also available in denominations of £25, £50 and £100.

For enquiries or to book, please email: **worfolkqcottage@gmail.com**

Please consider booking Norfolk Cottage for Quaker away weekends, breaks and holidays.

News

Yorkshire Quakers Consultation

In 2025 it was agreed to set up a new charity, Yorkshire Quakers, to be the merging of the existing area meeting charities and Quakers in Yorkshire.

The Implementation Group has had a busy 2025 preparing for the new charity. We have applied to the Charity Commission to register Yorkshire Quakers. We are now consulting local and area meetings on how it should operate so that we achieve the goals of simplification and providing local meetings with robust ways of managing finances and property.

Full details of the consultation can be found on the website:

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

Online consultation sessions

Yorkshire Quakers has arranged two online consultation sessions on the proposals for how Yorkshire Quakers might operate and hear feedback and answer questions.

Tuesday 13 January 2026, 7:30-8:30 pm

Thursday 22 January 2026, 7:30-8:30 pm

The zoom link to join the sessions is as follows (opening at 7.15pm):

<https://us02web.zoom.us>

[/j/9583582690?pwd=MzRDSFV5cDJUMDJ1eG03cXc3Z2NiUT09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9583582690?pwd=MzRDSFV5cDJUMDJ1eG03cXc3Z2NiUT09)

Meeting ID: 958 358 2690

Passcode: K86234

Spotlight On...the Peace Museum

“Every object has a story to tell”

In September a group from York Area Meeting visited the Peace Museum in its new location at Salt Mill, Saltaire. Ruth McCarthy reflects on the experience.



[Read Ruth's article here](#)

Quakers in Yorkshire January Meeting



Saturday 17th January 2026
Carlton Hill Meeting House, Leeds and online
10am - 4pm

The theme through the day will be Elders and Pastoral Care Friends: the spiritual background, their function and support for the discipline of the Quaker Business Method.

Programme:

We will meet from 10am at Carlton Hill Meeting for refreshments, followed by Meeting for worship for 30 minutes starting at 10.30.

The morning session will hear of the activities of young people at Junior Holidays and Holiday School, of the Easter Settlement and QiY Outreach Projects. Jo Baynham (Youth Development Worker) and Craig Barnett (Development Worker) will speak briefly about their hopes and plans for the coming year.

13.00 - Lunch. Bring your own food, refreshments are provided.

In the afternoon there will be a consideration of the spiritual aspects of Eldership and there will be breakout sessions that will allow Friends to share experiences of how Eldership and Pastoral Care is being (and can be) offered effectively in both small and large meetings for worship.

16.00 - Close of meeting.

All are welcome.

If you intend to join the QiY Meeting via Zoom, then you will need to register at:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/uegmuqbBQJm1W3A2t0p4qQ>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

Venue Details

Full address:

Leeds Quaker Meeting House,
188 Woodhouse Lane,
LS2 9DX

Travelling on foot:

The meeting house is a 30 minute walk from Leeds Station. Exit onto Wellington Street and walk straight up Park Row. Turn left onto Woodhouse Lane and continue until you see the meeting house on the right.

Travelling by bus:

Buses from railway station: any bus from stand G, numbers 1, 93, 95. Buses from the bus station: buses from stands 20, 21 and 22, bus numbers 28, 96, 97, 731, or any bus which passes Leeds University. Station: Leeds City, 1 mile.

Travelling by car:

There is a car park at the rear.

Click below for Google Maps directions.

Google Maps directions

Deadline for items for the April newsletter: **Wednesday 25th March**

If you have any feedback on the format of this newsletter, please send it to the email below.

Editor: Ellie McCarthy support@quakersinyorkshire.org.uk

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