

Quakers in Yorkshire

Trustees Review of 2025

The activities organised and sponsored by Quakers in Yorkshire in 2025 were again successful. Many young people attended the youth activities which included three residential Junior Holidays, three Link Group weekends and a week long Yorkshire Friends Holiday School. The work of the Yorkshire Youth Development Worker has greatly helped this expansion of activities. But none of the youth activities would be possible without the teams of volunteers who devote time and effort to ensure that inclusive programmes are provided. Ensuring high quality safeguarding procedures is always high on the agenda so that safe and welcoming spaces can be provided.

YORKSHIRE QUAKER CAMP

The first Yorkshire Quaker Camp was held at Fell Foot, near Ilkley, over the first weekend in August 2025. It was very successful and was fully booked within days of being advertised. It was specifically catering for families with children who wanted a low-cost event. There were 82 Friends taking part, including 28 children.

The Camp replaces the long-running Easter Settlement, held at Cober Hill, near Scarborough which had become too expensive for families. There was however an informal Spring Gathering held over the 2025 Easter weekend at Cober Hill.

JUNIOR HOLIDAYS

A third Junior Holidays weekend was added to the normal two weekends because of demand in 2025. All three were very successful. The first Junior Holiday in March was held at Barmoor. This is an ever popular venue but can only accommodate limited numbers. The second weekend was held at the new venue of Raywell Park, near Hull, and the third weekend again at Barmoor but for a younger age group. Junior Holidays are often over-booked. They depend on a willing team of volunteers who dedicate their weekend to running the events and dealing with issues as they arise.

LINK GROUP

Three residential weekends were held for Yorkshire Quaker teenagers in school years 6 to 13 (ages 11 to 18) at Airton in March, Barnsley in June and Barmoor in December. Over the three years that Link Group has been running it has grown from small beginnings to between 25 and 30 participants with 7 volunteers. It provides a link between younger age provision and adult provision and maintains engagement throughout the year.

HOLIDAY SCHOOL

The 2025 Yorkshire Friends Holiday School was held over a week in August at Bootham school. This is for 13-21 years old and the theme for the successful week was "Are we there yet?" It is a community event and for many of the participants it is life changing and leads to long-term engagement with Holiday School. The week is organised and run by volunteers who have been participants in earlier years. This model works well and has enabled an inclusive friendly atmosphere to be maintained.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Projects Committee made three grants. The first to assist an outreach campaign on social media in conjunction with Discovering Quakers; the second was part funding to New Earswick meeting to help with a warm welcome activity; the third to Wakefield meeting to enable them to run weekly social groups for people in the asylum process.

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

The quarterly meetings of Quakers in Yorkshire are the forum for its two main roles of administration and inspiration. All members and attenders from constituent area and local meetings are eligible to attend. Highlight of the year was the April 2025 meeting at Doncaster when the Recording Clerk spoke on the spiritual basis of simplification and this led to extensive discussion on how to turn the concept of simplification into reality. It was six years since the Recording Clerk had first stimulated Quakers in Yorkshire to embark on the path of simplification.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

In 2025 the total income was about £68,000 and the total expenditure was about £74,000 with the reserves covering the difference. The turnover of the youth activities form the largest component of the accounts. Trustees agreed bursary funds so as to encourage a wide range of families to experience the youth activities.

Income in 2025 came from the youth activities, donations, and investments. The donation income was mainly made up of the contributions, from the seven area meetings. These contributions are vital in enabling Quakers in Yorkshire to cover the general running costs, offer bursaries and also offer outreach grants to local meetings.

As well as the above expenditure, grants are made to support Quaker families at Yorkshire Quaker schools and for the maintenance of meeting houses and burial grounds. There is a substantial portfolio of endowed and restricted funds where the income can only be used for the defined purposes. The total investment income in 2025 of about £19,000 was similar to previous years but only represents 2% of the capital value of the funds.