

Quakers in Yorkshire

Newsletter

News, views and events from local and
area meetings in Yorkshire



Programme for next meeting

Quakers in the World

Bean Street, Hull

Saturday 21 April 2018



Activities for children and young people;
childcare available for infants if notified
in advance

Quakers in Yorkshire Newsletter April 2018

All Yorkshire meetings are invited to send news of their interests and activities for inclusion in this newsletter, which is published four times a year, ahead of QiY quarterly meetings.

Please let us know in advance the names of AM representatives to meetings of Quakers in Yorkshire.

Deadline for contributions to the July issue 16 June 2018

Hard copies of the newsletter, including the programme for each meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire, are sent to all local meetings. Please let the co-clerks know of changes to the number of copies.

The newsletter is also sent electronically to AM and LM clerks. Please could recipients ensure that hard copies are made available to Friends who do not have Internet access? If any Friend would like to receive a personal copy directly, please inform the co-clerks.

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Please let the clerks know if you see any errors relating to your meeting, or of any item you would like to include here.

Have your meeting's contact details changed? We always need up-to-date email and telephone details of local and area meeting clerks. Under Data Protection QiY cannot receive personal details from other parts of the Religious Society of Friends. This information must come from you individually, so please let us know.

Looking Ahead

Quarterly meeting of QiY: Ackworth School, Saturday 21 July

Our principal speaker will be Dr Karen Abi-Ezzi, Director of the MA programme in Peace Studies at the University of Bradford. She lectures on theories of mediation and conflict resolution, on Middle East politics including the Arab Spring, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Lebanese politics and the role of NGOs in processes of national reconciliation. An amazing opportunity for Friends to get up to speed on the complexities of Middle Eastern politics.

Menwith Hill Meeting for Worship

Meet by Main Gate 2pm - 3pm on the first Saturday of alternate months. For the rest of 2018 the dates will be:

7 April, 2 June, 4 August, 6 October, 1 December

Please bring a chair and warm clothes.

For help with transport, contact Barbara Penny, Gilly Charters or Ruth Rymer of Harrogate Meeting.

Over 60? Attractive ground floor flat for sale Quaker House, Leeds.

One double bedroom, living/dining room with door to garden, modernised kitchen, walk-in shower room, small hall with door into communal entrance. Contact Una Parker 0113 2445454.

Book of Members and Attenders

The 2018 Book of Member and Attenders is now published. Copies can be obtained from David Olver price £5 per copy plus £2 postage for any number of copies.

Email: david@olver.plus.com Phone 01535 605 412.

Prayer: Connecting with the Light.

A Kindlers Workshop on Saturday 28 April at Friargate Quaker Meeting House. We will explore what prayer means to us and how we use it both as individuals and in our Quaker meetings. Led by Angela Sansam (Harrogate), Ann Banks (Hebden Bridge) and Ruth McCarthy (New Earswick). 10am refreshments for 10.30 start, until 4pm. £10 on the door. Please bring packed lunch, drinks available.

Whatever Happened to the Quaking? By Diana Sandy

This newly-published collection of essays and letters will be available at Hull: £5

Human Rights and Asylum Housing Action

Sue Beardon of Sheffield and Balby AM tells us that Nether Edge and Sheffield Central Meetings are considering joining the sanctuary meeting network as other Yorkshire meetings have already done. Friends attended a conference that highlighted the concerns about the running of asylum housing by the agencies G4S and Serco. The conference heard about issues emerging from the privatisation of this service and concerns were shared about the handling of the contracts. It was alleged that the system currently offers poor standards of support and maintenance, citing:

- The style of properties used
- Bedroom sharing by strangers
- Harassment
- Lack of accountability and lack of transparency

Sue's full report on the provision of housing for asylum seekers can be obtained from QiY clerks: enquiries@quakersinyorkshire.org.uk

Michael Whiting: Memorial Meeting Died in 2016 aged 99.

A celebration of Michael's life will be held at Beverley FMH on Sunday 15 April at 2 pm. A founder member of Beverley Meeting, Michael was active in children's activities at Hull Meeting, Holiday School and Easter Settlement. He and his family have been part of Yorkshire Quaker life for decades, perhaps centuries! His legacy of documents and items date far back into Quaker history.

Meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire January 2019

Since we can no longer meet at Oxford Place, Leeds Friends have booked Mill Hill Unitarian Chapel in City Square for next January. The chapel pews will be a new experience for us but the minister sees Quakers as kindred spirits and we anticipate a warm welcome.



Quakers in the World

In planning our April gathering, we have been excited to learn about the marvellous Spirit-led endeavours of Friends from Yorkshire in different parts of the world. Hull is not on everyone's doorstep, but your clerks are confident that it will be more than worthwhile to make the effort to come. This is a great chance to discover more about Quaker Faith across the globe, and the work Friends are doing as they follow their leadings and respond to the needs of everyone.

Friends World Committee for Consultation

We are delighted to welcome Simon C Lamb as principal speaker to our meeting at Hull. Simon is an Irish Friend who in his everyday life runs a small factory making various sweet bakery products. Simon comes from and feels a deep affinity with the evangelical unprogrammed tradition of Friends in Ulster Quarterly Meeting. He has been a very active Friend throughout his life in Ireland and internationally. He is an Elder and has worshipped most of his life in Richhill Preparative Meeting.

As clerk of both the European planning committee for the World Gathering of Young Friends in 1985 and the planning committee for the FWCC World Plenary Meeting in Pisac, Peru in 2016, Simon brings a global and a theologically diverse understanding to the work of Friends today. He has more recently become Clerk of Friends World Committee for Consultation. In this capacity in 2017 he travelled in the ministry among Friends in Rwanda and Burundi.

Active in vocal ministry, he has given Yearly Meeting lectures in various parts of the world. He gave the keynote address to the FWCC Triennial in New Hampshire in 2000. Perhaps most importantly Simon longs for Friends globally to rediscover their prophetic voice under the leading of the Holy Spirit.

Quaker World Relations Committee

We shall hear from Liz Scurfield, a member of QWRC, who writes: Our terms of reference are quite simple: Enriching understanding between Friends worldwide and engaging Quakers in Britain in Quaker issues and concerns around the globe (QF&P 9.06, 5th ed.) Summary of Purpose (part): *Quaker World Relations Committee is responsible for maintaining and deepening the relationships of*

Quakers in Britain with Quakers in other yearly meetings, Friends' groupings abroad and with the Friends World Committee for Consultation (FWCC).

Amongst our many responsibilities:

- Sending annual letters of greeting to Europe & Middle East (EMES) Yearly Meetings on behalf of BYM and providing a briefing for BYM representatives to EMES YMs
- Running the QWRC Network, which aims to provide an interactive space where Friends can explore the wider world of Friends and BYM's relationship with it.

We also provide a presence and a welcoming space for international visitors at Britain Yearly Meeting. We invite them to attend BYM and run Special Interest Meetings (SIM). In 2018 we offer on Sat 5 May:

- Melinda Wenner Bradley, Philadelphia YM, on Faith and Play Storytelling (lunchtime)
- Robin Mohr, Executive Secretary of FWCC Section of the Americas; on Travelling in the Ministry: experience from Section of the Americas (evening).

We run the Quaker World Relations Consultative Forum: an annual one-day event for representatives from central and standing committees, Woodbrooke, YFGM, YMAC and CNC, FWCC World Office, FWCC EMES, QCEA and QUNO. It provides a space for knowledge sharing and wider collaborative engagement on a theme of common interest. Last year's theme was: Liberal Quakerism and Movement Building within the Quaker World; this year's is Inter-visitation: how can we use it to strengthen our community, and our individual faith? Two speakers will provide different perspectives.

QWRC works closely with FWCC World Office and FWCC EMES. I want to highlight an invitation to the 2018 EMES annual meeting in Åsane Folk High School, Bergen, Norway from 21-24 June. There are still open places! The theme is *A New Heaven and a New Earth (Rev. 21:1): Finding new Light in turbulent times*. EMES hopes to provide a programme for children and young people. More info: <http://www.fwccemes.org/calendar/emes-annual-meeting-2018>

European and Middle Eastern Section Young Friends.

We are hoping to hear from a member of EMES Young Friends, but at time of going to press a speaker has not been confirmed.

Alternatives to Violence Project in Namibia

'Thank you... You have really changed my life from no one to someone...'

In 2006 two members of Namibia's Quaker Community wondered how their tiny worshipping group might respond to the increasing violence in the country, in large part a legacy of the colonial period in the region. With funds from Sheffield Central (£1,500) and many individuals, and practical help from Friends at Cape Town Peace Centre and elsewhere in Southern Africa, and in collaboration with the PEACE-Centre in Windhoek, they decided to start an AVP programme in Namibia, now registered with the Ministry of Health and Social Services as 'AVP Namibia'. Since then trained Namibian facilitators have administered the work, with the continuing involvement of local Quakers, one of whom is the AVP Secretary. Much of the work has been in male prisons, as rewarding for the facilitators as for the inmates who have taken part in the courses.

Our connection and on-going support is through our friend, Helen Vale, a member of Namibia Allowed Meeting, known to us since our time in Botswana and Lesotho, and at Southern Africa YMs.

Chris and Roy Love



Hands at the AGM of Alternatives to Violence, Namibia

Scholarships for Street Kids (S4SK) – John McConnell

Just over ten years ago, on my way to work in Myanmar, I met a leprous mother and her baby begging in a Rangoon street. That night I could not sleep and, by the morning, had decided to do what I could to help them. Thus began the work that led to the formation of Scholarships for Street Kids two years later, and of our sister organisation **Hope for Shining Stars (H4SS)** (now an independent local NGO in Myanmar) three years after that.

Currently H4SS runs around thirty non-formal education classes across Myanmar serving around 400 out-of-school-and-working children. A further 60 children receive scholarships of various sorts ranging from support for children who are moving from non-formal to formal education, vocational training, and some university degree courses.

Our children are all from very poor families, so poor in fact that they have to work to contribute to the family income. It is this economic fact that makes them so difficult to access since their families cannot afford the loss of income incurred by children coming to class for several hours each day. Education alone is not enough: we need to answer the poverty of the families too.

The S4SK-H4SS strategy comprises seven elements:

1. Child-centred, activity-based education. Classes are fun and children enjoy them
2. Payment to families to compensate for the lost earnings of the child. There is no bribery here – just recognition of economic reality
3. Our teachers are also social workers. They visit every home, build trust with parents, and help resolve any problems before they lead to children being withdrawn from class
4. A bursary fund to cover major domestic costs (medical bills, repair of flooded homes etc)
5. Successive educational opportunities, each building on the other
6. Specially trained teachers
7. Advocacy for better provision for out-of-school children.

QUAKER CONGO PARTNERSHIP UK

Catherine Putz, who is a trustee of QCP, along with Margaret Gregory & Paul Simon, visited the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi in November 2017. The Congo Partnership is supported by two area meetings in Britain who send money regularly to support community projects based in the village of Abeka on the shore of Lake Tanganyika. Working with the 63 Quaker Churches that form the Communauté des Églises Évangéliques des Amis au Congo (CEEAC), it aims to build peace in communities that are still unstable after many years of civil warfare.

Friends' support helps fund a range of projects: the hospital in Abeka which is gradually improving its facilities; improvements to the water supply to neighbouring villages; CEPAP: Centre for Education, Peace and Psychosocial assistance; a Microcredit scheme for women to develop small businesses and their independence. At the Peace Centre in Uvira NIREC (Initiatives for Community Reconciliation) works in community reconciliation, conflict resolution and peace building, in cooperation with other like-minded organisations.

The QCP/CEEACO partnership has been highly successful in implementing projects to date. The hospital has now a supply of fresh water and a second phase of water supply is recommended, along with solar power, additional equipment; evaluation of the hospital & implementation of recommendations, a training plan, the strengthening of the management structure and a review of the microcredit programme. Catherine's detailed and fascinating report can be read on the QiY website.



Breaking the Poverty Chain

David Murden has worked for 20 years on sustainable development projects in Ghana and Burkina Faso along Ghana's slave routes. He explains that one of the aims of the NGOs, *And Albert* and *African Lands*, is to open up shipping routes north of the Lake Volta reservoir so that the remote villages on the White Volta River that border on Bukina Faso can gain access to the prosperous southern regions of Kumasi and Accra with all the benefits this would mean for their development.

The creation of this link would enable recipients in Ghana or Europe to access biomass and the best of African crops, fruits, vegetables, and the herbs and plant products that offer health benefits not the least for their own youngsters!

Part of the scheme is the provision of a hospital boat. The proposals have the ear and trust of experienced and qualified personnel who can present surveys and feasibility studies, and of the Chiefs and Elders and, to ease the way, the blessings of entrepreneurial women! All this has been captured on camera and a full-length film is planned, including drone use, to explore and survey each location from Akosombo in the South to beyond Singa village (our main centre) in the North.



12 Tribes represented at the Wilberforce “Freedom Festival”, Fort Anomabo, Ghana, in March 25th 2007, gathering to walk together into the Fort.

**MEETING OF QUAKERS IN YORKSHIRE 21 April 2018
PROGRAMME FOR THE DAY**

- 10.00 Coffee or Tea on arrival
- 10.30 Meeting for Worship
- 11.00 Testimony
- 11.05 Welcome to Bean Street, Appointment of Elders
- 11.15 Address by **Simon C Lamb**, Clerk to FWCC
- 11.55 **Liz Scurfield** of Quaker World Relations Committee
- 12.10 A word about Europe and Middle Eastern Young Friends
- 12.15 Questions and reflection
- 12.30 **Emma Condori**, on Quaker Bolivia Link
- 12.50 Notices and Lunch (bring your own, drinks provided)
- 14.00 Appointments and releases
- 14.10 Short Presentations on Quaker Work Overseas:
- Roy Love** - Alternatives to Violence in Namibia
Martin Schweiger – Quaker Asia Interest Group
Catherine Putz - Quaker Congo Partnership
David Murden - Hospital Boat Project in Ghana
John McConnell - Scholarships for Street Kids:
Myanmar
- 14.50 We will form three groups for workshops on the last three topics. We will reconvene for brief reports, if time allows.
- Minute of record
- Closing minute
- 16.00 **Tea and departures.** We thank Hull and Beverley Friends for their hospitality and all the arrangements for the day.

Children and young people under 19 are most welcome to attend QiY meetings. Hull LM is planning activities to follow a short time in meeting for worship 10.30-10.45. Bring packed lunch and bus fares. Contact: Annabel May annabelmay2013@outlook.com before 14 April, or via Hull Meeting House: 01482 327574

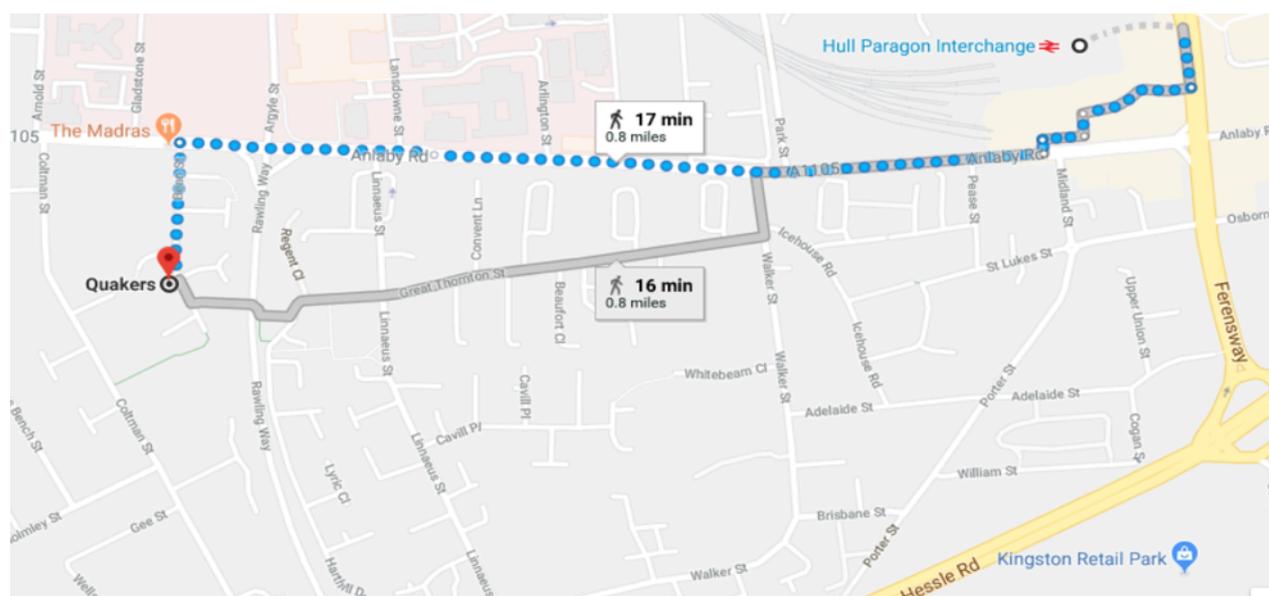
Signing in: Please sign attendance list when you arrive. Name labels available. If you have a badge, please bring it and wear it.

Directions to Meeting House, Bean Street, Hull HU3 2PR

The Meeting House is situated on Bean Street, off Anlaby Road, 100 yards west of the Hull Royal Infirmary traffic light junction.

Telephone: 01482 327574

The building has ramp access and is single storey, with toilet facilities for the disabled and a car park on site.



The buses below serve Hull Royal Infirmary (that's where Friends will need to get off) from Hull Interchange: 1A, 1C, 35, 48, X55, 60/60A, 61, 62, 64/64C, 66, 151, 152, 153, 154, & 155.

If you come by train, it's a good 15-minute walk from the station. To save a little distance, turn right when you leave the platform. Leave by the side, not by the main entrance (as shown on the the map). To avoid traffic fumes on Anlaby Road, turn left when you reach Walker Street, then right on to Great Thornton Street, as shown in grey on the map.