

Report to York Area Meeting

Name of event	Quaker Life Representative Council: Sharing our end of life stories- discovering Quaker understandings of dying and death.
Date and place of event	April 15 – 17, 2016 at Woodbrooke
Your name	Edith Jayne
Your Meeting	New Earswick
Why did you accept nomination?	I hoped to learn about new issues/practices to take back to AM and my Meeting. The fact that Conference dealt with End of Life issues was a bonus as it is an interest of mine.
Who ran the event?	QL : The End of Life Issues Working Group of Quaker Life.
What was its purpose?	To share experiences and good practice. To launch new leaflet : Love and Loss – an invitation to Friends and meetings.
How was it structured?	Three speakers sharing their personal stories followed by choice of Workshops and discussions in home groups. Wonderful DVD/film : “What We Did on Our Holiday” (2014) ; Meetings for Worship and Plenary sessions. Plus sharing over meals etc.
What did you learn?	The potency of sharing our own stories; The necessity of Quakers talking about (a good) death. The variety of resources that might help Meetings. Different views about assisted dying. That Meetings need to engage in this as A&Q 30 reminds us: Accepting the fact of death, we are freed to live more fully.
What can the Area Meeting learn?	We can enable each other to begin or continue this exploration of what a good death might be and how we can help ourselves and each other achieve this for ourselves and those we love. Quaker Life is sending 10 copies of leaflet of Love and Loss to every Meeting There is a listing of resources as well I can share. We could replicate a shortened version of this conference on a Saturday should AM think it useful.