

# Quakevine

News, Views, Venues and Dates for Quakers around York  
Issue 166  
March 2018



Tracey Sharp - Friargate Business Manager

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## *Editorial*

This month's QV includes a list of York Area Meeting appointments for 2018. [I can also provide it on request as a separate electronic document.] Do retain it for use when you need to know who is serving in a particular capacity. It can also be a handy way to gain a clearer understanding of Quaker structures. Do ask if you come across less than transparent 'job titles' - such as representative to Meeting for Sufferings.

Virtually all Quaker service begins with a Nominations Committee 'discerning' the most appropriate name for the role and sounding out the person concerned to check on their willingness to consider that service. Once that stage in the process is complete, the name comes before the appointing body of Friends, in this case Area Meeting. And since Area Meeting takes responsibility for making the appointment, it naturally follows that it is also responsible for supporting the appointed person while the role is being undertaken. Do ask if you want to know more.

Below, Tracey introduces herself to Area Meeting as Friargate's very welcome Business Manager. Next month Cath Harvey will write about Quaker Manager work. Barbara Windle

### *A snapshot of Friargate's Business Manager*

Hello Friends. The editor has asked for a brief self-portrait so here goes. My background? Starting with a degree in European History and Italian, I have since added Portuguese, French, German and Spanish. I like travelling!

My employment experience includes UK and international internal audit work, commercial finance and running qualified accountancy recruitment for the East Midlands. I've also managed recruitment in Sheffield and Leicester. I took a short career break to have my now 13 year old twin girls, before moving back into Finance and branching out into hospitality.

So here I now am, living in Dunnington and enjoying my current position at the Quaker Meeting House in Friargate. My role here is to produce the accounts, manage the business in the best way possible and to look at better buying practices. It is my hope and aim to help facilitate our Quaker Vision for the future by keeping the business and finance working effectively and creating, with the help of others, a warmly welcoming and efficient community in the building throughout the week.

I like to think I have a sense of humour and a friendly, approachable personality and I look forward to meeting you all in due course.

Tracey Sharp

### *Quaker faith & practice: extract of the month*

Rejection of creed is not inconsistent with being possessed by a living belief. We have no creed in science, but we are not lukewarm in our beliefs. The belief is not that all the knowledge of the universe that we hold so enthusiastically will survive in the letter; but a sureness that we are on the road. If our so-called facts are changing shadows, they are shadows cast by the light of constant truth. So too in religion we are repelled by that confident theological doctrine which has settled for all generations just how the spiritual world is worked; but we need not turn aside from the measure of light that comes into our experience showing us a Way through the unseen world. Religion for the conscientious seeker is not all a matter of doubt and self-questionings. There is a kind of sureness which is very different from cocksureness.

Arthur S Eddington 1929 [Qf&p 27.24]

## *York Area Meeting*

### *AM business at New Earswick in March*

We expect an interesting meeting on Sunday afternoon 11<sup>th</sup> March at New Earswick. After the regular business matters, it will include an exploration of Quaker learning needs and experience facilitated by James McCarthy. Barbara Windle Clerk

### *YAQM Trustees' Meeting*

Trustees met for the first time this year on Feb 11<sup>th</sup> at New Earswick. We welcomed Danielle Palmour as a new Trustee, and also Barbara Windle, Margaret Bryan, Chris Holman, Lois and Nick Folkard. Chris, Lois and Nick took us through the latest updates on the Safeguarding of children and adults at risk, with particular advice about DBS checks and the extent to which we have responsibility for those hiring our premises. Together with the safeguarding officers in each local meeting, Nick, Lois and Chris can offer a wealth of good advice on all aspects of this subject. And, of course, there is our Area Meeting Safeguarding Policy - important to have read and acted upon.

The 2017 Tabular Statement shows a fall in membership of 21 over the year: a new total of 396. Meg Forrest pointed out that it is an increasingly realistic representation of the true membership. A number of resignations were from completely inactive members and, of course, we have had a number of deaths. Friends being accepted into membership here outnumbered transfers in from other meetings.

Our Treasurer reported that the anticipated 2017 deficit of £3,270 can easily be covered by reserves. Some of those are made up of investments which have been sold on ethical grounds and will be temporarily invested in the Ecology Building Society.

We received a most illuminating account of the whole Friargate Project from Margaret Bryan, bringing us up to date with the financial situation and giving us good news about the new staffing team. We noted that the renovation and development work has been a remarkable achievement, having been completed on time and within budget. The repayment of loans is looking much more achievable than only a few months ago, with the news of a bequest and the conversion of several loans into gifts. Talking of bequests, the Elisabeth Holmgaard bequest to New Earswick, continues to exercise us all. Trustees have offered support to NE Friends in the use of the money and will look in depth at how we manage large bequests and legacies in the future. A number of employment issues, property maintenance matters and Health and Safety were covered. Perhaps one of the most optimistic items was the news that Friargate are planning to let Waller House to a refugee family, something we heartily endorsed.

Minutes of this meeting are available from me, as are any (or all!) of the many documents referenced in the minutes. **Jenny Hartland** (Co-Clerk to YAQM Trustees)

### *Data Protection regulations: the bitesize version*

*David Roberts as clerk of our Area Meeting trustees, offers here the first of a series of 'bitesize regulations' - a user-friendly guide to keeping up with what is required of us so that we keep abreast of changes in law.*

If you are emailing out a document to a group of Friends:

Enter just one name (probably your own) in the first address line,

Then click to open up the other address lines [CC - copy to; and BCC - blind copy to].

Now put into BCC line either the email group name or all the individual names of the Friends you want to receive the message.

That way you are hiding and therefore protecting the email addresses of all the Friends concerned.

## *Sanctuary Meetings*

*At Area Meeting in January we minuted the following:*

### **Minute 5 Harrogate Sanctuary Meeting**

Hilary Evens has told us officially that Harrogate has joined the Sanctuary Meeting movement, which is part of a larger Quaker Peace & Social Witness movement, Sanctuary Everywhere. Harrogate is sending two Friends to a training meeting. The work currently involves advocacy, helping with English as a Foreign Language, and raising funding for local families, but the Meeting is exploring other possibilities too. Friends find that joining with Harrogate District of Sanctuary is helpful in strengthening the meeting.

In our discussion Harrogate has encouraged other meetings to get involved and we have been invited to think about designating ourselves an Area Meeting of Sanctuary, as Leeds Area Meeting has already done. Experience suggests that five Local Meetings speaking as one gives us a louder Quaker voice in the community.

We ask Friends to take these messages back to their Local Meetings and to read the briefing papers, freely available from Friends House. **We look towards a further consideration of the topic later in the year, when we have all better informed ourselves.**

*Other Local Meetings have also begun thinking about this.*

*York's three meetings thought about looking at it together and a working group of New Earswick & Friargate Friends emerged. The group plans to bring a considered proposal to Local Meeting[s] in June.*

*The briefing note that follows is the first stage in providing Friends with information that can help the discussion forward.*

*The second stage is an open discussion on March 18th -to which all are invited:*

**In order to facilitate an inclusive and thoughtful proposal, the working group will be holding a presentation and discussion about Sanctuary Meetings on Sunday March 18th in the Fox Room at Friargate. Soup, rolls, tea and cake will be available from 12.00 midday. We welcome and encourage f/Friends from all 3 York meetings to attend to hear about the project in more detail and contribute their thoughts and ideas.**

*You can also pick up QPSW leaflets locally or download them from the [quaker.org.uk](http://quaker.org.uk) website. [see [www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration](http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration)]*

## Briefing Note for Quakers in York Sanctuary Meetings

*For Further Information contact  
Kurt Strauss [New Earswick] or  
Wendy Bennett [Friargate]*

### Background

This briefing note provides further information about **Sanctuary Meetings**, which are being developed nationally with the support of Britain Yearly Meeting. The aim of the Sanctuary Meetings project is to encourage all Quaker meetings to support newcomers, asylum seekers and refugees in their area. This note aims to help our business meetings discuss what it would mean to become a Sanctuary Meeting and decide if we should sign up to the project.

#### **What do we have to do to become a Sanctuary Meeting?**

A Sanctuary Meeting is one that is committed to;

1. Joining local initiatives to build a culture of welcome
2. Building alliances with groups opposing racism
3. Working with others to change the laws on destitution, detention, deportations and removals.

However, Sanctuary Meetings can choose their actions based on local circumstances. This might involve hosting public meetings with migrant-led groups, assisting with campaigns to resist removals and deportations, or it could simply be supporting existing York City of Sanctuary initiatives and giving weight to its existing campaigns. Actions taken will vary in response to local issues, abilities and passions within the community, and the leadings of the Spirit.

Meetings will need to nominate two people to act as a 'lead' for the project and help coordinate and communicate work in their area. National funding is available to support Meetings with any extra costs associated with becoming a Sanctuary Meeting.

### **Thoughts for Consideration**

*Many of our members and attenders do this kind of work already so why should we consider becoming a Sanctuary Meeting?*

By becoming a Sanctuary Meeting we can build a bigger collective voice nationally, adding strength and effectiveness to campaigning for change and a sense of nation-wide solidarity with asylum seekers and refugees - and with each other. It also gives added strength to activity at local level, for example in political lobbying – where the voice of a whole Meeting may have more impact than that of a single Friend.

*What kinds of things could we consider doing in York?*

One of the first things we ought to do if we decide to become a Sanctuary Meeting is to map what Friends are doing already, collate their experiences, and then work with partners in the city to see what the gaps in provision are and if and how we might support what is missing.

*What are other Quaker Meetings doing?*

- Building alliances with City or District of Sanctuary, migrant, or BME-led anti-racist groups in their area, including by offering room grants.
- Holding at least one public meeting a year with other local groups, especially people with direct experience of being discriminated against by the border system.
- Lobbying local politicians.
- Offering accompaniment to people seeking sanctuary in negotiating 'everyday borders' such as healthcare and the education system
- Assisting campaigns that use direct action to resist deportation.

More than forty Local Meetings plus a few Area Meetings have already signed up - why don't we?

“Through Quakers' longstanding work welcoming newcomers to our shores, we have seen up close that the government's creation of a 'hostile environment' is increasingly embedding policies of discrimination into the practices of the British state. Quakers in Britain are committed to working with others to change this, creating a culture of compassion and welcoming hospitality that answers that of God in every person.”  
- *Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto, Meeting for Sufferings*

## YORK AREA QUAKER MEETING Appointments 2018

Role	Name	Date of 1 <sup>st</sup> appointment	Term ends	Term
Clerk	Barbara Windle	Jan 2017	Dec 2019	1
Assistant Clerk	Geof Sewell	Jan 2017	Dec 2019	1
Assistant Clerk [Membership]	Lesley O'Neal	Jan 2014	Dec 2018	2
Assistant Clerk (Training/Development)	James McCarthy	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
Enumeration officer	Meg Forrest	Jan 2014	Dec 2018	2
Registering officer	Helen Snelson	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	2
Deputy RO	Carol Robinson	May 2016	Dec 2019	1
Friend responsible for authorisation of burials and scattering of ashes	Jenny Hartland	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
Representative on local SACRE committee	Tracey Copestake	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	3
AM Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Chris Holman	Jan 2017	Dec 2019	2
AM Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Lois Folkard	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	1
AM Safeguarding Co-ordinator	Nick Folkard	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	1
AM Archivist	Ros Batchelor	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
<b>TRUSTEES</b>				
Clerk	<i>employment</i> David Roberts	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	2
Co-Clerk	<i>health &amp; safety</i> Alison Clarke	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	2
Co-Clerk	Richard Ogden	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	2
Treasurer	<i>finance</i> Stephen Pittam	Jan 2018	Dec 2018	2
	Danielle Palmour	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	1
	<i>property</i> John Gilham	Jan 2014	Dec 2019	2
	<i>enumerator</i> Meg Forrest	Jan 2014	Dec 2018	2
	<i>data and records</i> Gilly Charters	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	2
Co-Clerk	<i>burial grounds</i> Jenny Hartland	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
	<i>safeguarding</i> Keith Barnes	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
<b>REPRESENTATIVES</b>				
Meeting for Sufferings		YM 2017	YM 2020	2
	James McCarthy <i>rep</i>			
Meeting for Sufferings	Sarah Allen <i>alternate</i>	YM 2017	YM 2020	2
Quaker Life Representative Council	Andrew Burns	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
Quaker Life Representative Council	Edith Jayne	Jan 2016	Dec 2018	1
Quaker Outreach Project Committee	<i>vacant</i>	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	1
Advocate for Children and Young People	Angela Sansam	Jan 2014	Dec 2019	2
Q in Yorkshire Noms	Barbara Penny	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	2
Q in Yorkshire Noms	Geof Sewell	Jan 2017	Dec 2019	1
Q in Yorks Junior Hols				
Q in Yorks Trustees	John Baily	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	1
Young Friends General Meeting	<i>vacant</i>			
Northern Friends Peace Board	Kurt Strauss	July 2015	Dec 2018	1
Prison Minister Full Sutton	Carol Robinson	July 2012	June 2018	2
Prison Minister Askham Grange	<i>vacant</i>			
Observer to York Synod	Eleanor O'Flynn	Jan 2018	Dec 2020	1
Rep to Ackworth School GM	<i>vacant</i>			

January 2018

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## *Prisons and Peace*

Friends might like to hear about a dramatic Peace Talk at Friargate on January 25<sup>th</sup>, during which three members of the audience stood and revealed themselves as serving prisoners. They had been brought from H.M.P. Askham Grange (an Open Women's Prison) by Graham Holgate, their inspiring Prison Officer, who had taken them earlier to a school in Leeds where they warned teenagers against the decisions and behaviour which might get them into prison in the first place. (This was a visit sponsored by the charity Prison Me No Way, [the-no-way-trust.org](http://the-no-way-trust.org)).

One woman had been given a considerable sentence under the relatively recent charge of 'guilt by association'; she said her phone number was associated with a convicted drug dealer. Graham spoke about the growing number of people imprisoned on a similar basis, without a great deal of apparent justification (indeed I know of another such case myself). Another prisoner talked of her bitter regret that her inattention while driving had caused a fatal accident - she too had been given a considerable sentence.

As well as deploring the length of such sentences, Graham also drew our attention to the complete lack of government provision for prisoners on release. One woman's children were in care, but she would not be able to take them back on her release unless she was in decent accommodation herself, and that was beyond her financial reach. She had been working 'outside' while living in the open prison but had had to give 40% of her taxed earnings to the Victims' Relief Fund. Without accommodation, released prisoners have little prospect of getting a job, particularly as so many of them have mental health problems. The St. Giles Trust and Shelter try to alleviate this problem but government policy aggravates it.

The other speaker at the event, Tim Newell, the retired governor of H.M.P. Grendon, was more encouraging. This prison, like only one other in the U.K., had been run as a 'therapeutic community', where prisoners took part in social counselling and shared their experiences and the management of each other. This had made dramatic inroads into the personal isolation which so hampers the rehabilitation process. This kind of prison is surely a more direct way to peace for our society, and for the prisoners themselves, than the more punitive paths being taken by the present Home Office.

These talks left me and, I am sure, much of the audience, eager to support not only our volunteers at Askham Grange, but also other organisations which engage with prisoners and find positive ways to respond to the kind of heartbreaking stories we had just heard.

**Anna Baldwin**

## *Elizabeth Fry's experience*

*Elizabeth Fry (1780-1845) was born into the Gurney family in Norwich. She committed herself to a religious life following the visit of William Savery of Philadelphia when she was seventeen. She devoted herself to work for prison reform. In 1827 she wrote of this work:*

Much depends on the spirit in which the visitor enters upon her work. It must be in the spirit, not of judgment, but of mercy. She must not say in her heart I am more holy than thou, but must rather keep in perpetual remembrance that 'all have sinned and come short of the Glory of God'.

## Friargate March Diary

2nd	Fri	Bishophill Gp: Laurie Michaelis's "Gleanings" from page 27	6 Portland St (Ann Holt & David Rubinstein)	12.30 Bring own lunch
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sat	Memorial Meeting: David Peryer	Friargate	10.30
4th	Sun	Local Meeting	Friargate	After MfW
4th	Sun	Carecent Collection of Food and Toiletries	Friargate	After MfW
10th	Sat	Kindlers: come along for a mind-opening day	Friargate	10.00 - 4.30
11th	Sun	Area Meeting <i>see page 3</i>	New Earswick	1.30 - 4.30
11th	Sun	Afterword	Friargate	After MfW
17th	Sat	Reflect: MfW followed by coffee	Bootham School	9.00 - 9.30
18th	Sun	Soup and Rolls: Sanctuary Meetings open discussion <i>see pp 4-5</i>	Friargate	12.00 noon onwards
21st	Wed	Knivesmire Group: Annemarieke de Bruin - my work on sustainable agriculture	6 Marlborough Grove [Anna Baldwin]	7.30 pm
25th	Sun	Attenders Group	Friargate	12.00 - 12.45

**10.30 Notices:** 4th, send to Huw Still 07915 607903 [huwstill@gmail.com](mailto:huwstill@gmail.com) or David Laverick.(see below)

**Remaining Sundays:** send to Nick Perks 01904 593659 [nick.perks@phonecoop.coop](mailto:nick.perks@phonecoop.coop)

**Breakfast Meeting** Notices to: David & Margaret Laverick 01904 798 050 or [hobgate39@gmail.com](mailto:hobgate39@gmail.com)

**Collections:** 4th,11th, Peacemakers; 18th,25th, Freedom from Torture

### Worship in York Area Meeting

Time	Location	Frequency
10.30-11.30	Acomb, Friargate, Harrogate, New Earswick, Thirsk	Weekly
9.15 – 10.00	Friargate <i>worship is preceded by breakfast at 8.30</i>	2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday
10.30-11.15	Lamel Beeches	weekly
11-11.30	The Oaks	Weekly
10.30-11.30	Knaresborough	2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday
8 pm	Eastern Villages:	3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday

### Weekday Worship in York Area Meeting

Tues	11.45	Hartrigg Oaks	Weekly
Wed	2.00	University Quiet Place, Heslington West: <i>all Friends welcome</i>	Termtime
Wed	12.45 -1.45	Friargate: bring your lunch, followed by MfW at 1.15	Weekly
Thu	10.45	Knaresborough, Gracious Street Centre <i>1<sup>st</sup> Thu, for 30 mins.</i>	Monthly
Thu	12.30	Harrogate <i>3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of the month, for 30 minutes</i>	Monthly
Thu	9.30	The Retreat	Weekly
Wed	11.30	Acomb	Weekly

### Contact details for all Local Meetings

[www.yorkquakers.org.uk](http://www.yorkquakers.org.uk)

Acomb	The Green, Acomb	01904 795595
Friargate	Friargate, York	01904 624065
Harrogate	12a Queen Parade, Harrogate	01423 563391
New Earswick	Top of Folk Hall car park	01904 763248
Thirsk	Kirkgate, Thirsk	01845 523491

### Contacting Quakevine

**Editorial:** Barbara Windle ([bwindle@waitrose.com](mailto:bwindle@waitrose.com) 01904 481977. 13a York Street, Dunnington)

**Page 8/Diary:** Julia Terry ([jhterry10@gmail.com](mailto:jhterry10@gmail.com) 01904 656634 13 Belle Vue Terrace YO10 5AZ)

**Local Contacts:** Anna Baldwin, Louise Brown, Sally & John Bourton, John Abbott, Meg Forrest

Please send items in Word, Trebuchet 12. The editor may select & edit all contributions.

**Deadline for next issue: 12 noon, Sunday March 18th**