

Minutes of a meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire held at Hull on 17 October 2009

Representatives

Brighouse West Yorkshire:

Central Yorkshire:

Craven and Keighley: Sylvia Boyes, Chris Petrie, Alison Tyas

Leeds: Quentin Fowler, Una Parker, Janet Naudin, Martin Schweiger

Pickering and Hull: Hester Miller, Jane Thomas

Sheffield and Balby: Keith Burdett, Sue Goodson

York: John Batchelor, Ruth Davies, Susan Hartshorne, Joyce Pickard, Joan Wrigley

Minute 1 Welcome

Hull Friends have welcomed us to the first meeting of Quakers in Yorkshire to be held in the new Hull meeting house. We are glad to be here.

Minute 2 Testimony

We have heard a testimony to the grace of God in the life of Trevor Jepson. We endorse this testimony and thank those Friends from Pickering & Hull Area Meeting who prepared it.

Minute 3 Quaker Work in Prisons

Daphne Glazer and David Hoare have spoken to us about their Quaker work in men's prisons in Hull and in York, Full Sutton. Daphne sees many short term prisoners on remand, in contrast to David's work with long term prisoners.

Daphne's father, not a Quaker, spent over three years in Dartmoor as a conscientious objector. As an adult she discovered Quakers and she herself first went into prisons as a teacher. She has been involved in the Hull Quaker chaplaincy team for around fifteen years. Her original attempts to introduce Quaker worship were severely hampered by the religious and the prison context in which she found herself. But currently, with the advent of a different Anglican chaplain, she has been able to set up a weekly 'Quaker discussion group.' She will take an appropriate theme, such as integrity, will tell a relevant published story of her own, and will use material from *Quaker faith & practice* to get a constructive discussion going. Daphne sees relationship breakdown and addiction as the two chief reasons why people find themselves in prison. In dealing with those in distress she finds herself using

language and ideas that do not come easily to a lot of Quakers; if someone suicidal needs her to pray aloud in conventionally religious language, she will do that, because what matters is to try to fulfil a desperate need. And yet bureaucracy can get in the way of this vital ministry; Daphne has present fears that her own security clearance may not be renewed purely because of pedantic processing regulations. There is also a real danger that the work will suffer because prisoners may be forced to choose between training and education or chaplaincy time.

David too had a father imprisoned in Dartmoor. He began by mentioning the long history of Quaker testimony on prisons and by emphasising the network across Britain Yearly Meeting of Friends involved in prisons of very different categories, whether as chaplains, or teachers, or governors. David thinks it important to bring prison work back into our meetings as a counter-influence to the thinking about criminal justice that dominates society at large.

David distinguished between Prison Visitors, who are assigned to visit particular prisoners, and Prison Chaplains. Prisoners now have a right to a visit from 'a minister of their own faith' though only in very recent years has equal status been accorded to ministers of all faiths. With other Quakers, David holds fortnightly Quaker meetings at Full Sutton, starting with around five minutes of quiet, followed by time in which people simply talk to one another. It was heart-warming to hear one prisoner say that he felt 'normal' in the Quaker group. As a result of 'sharing' the chaplaincy David is a prison service employee. He outlined his long and taxing Monday programme, from administrative chores to visiting those in the segregation unit. This can be very draining. It is difficult to keep the balance between maintaining respect for both officers and prisoners, nor is it easy to form a clear view of any complaints or to follow anything up. One is primarily a listening ear and has to remember when discouraged that it is impossible to know what good one is actually doing. David also visits different workshops. One happy result of this is that Full Sutton's work - summerhouse, garden furniture, chess boards, chairs, a rocking horse etc - is now used at The Retreat in York. The next venture has been to refurbish furniture donated to the Community Furniture Store. David's salary is used to defray Quaker chaplaincy expenses and also to improve facilities for prisoners by providing them with a valuable CD collection for instance. It has also contributed to Quaker prison work such as circles of support and accountability. David spoke movingly about his work with the Sex Offender Treatment Programme and reminded us that our ministry often impacts on all of us in very unexpected and difficult ways.

We thank both our speakers for what they have shared with us and for the amazing work they and others do on behalf of Friends.

Minute 4 Glenthorne Annual Report

We have received Glenthorne's Annual Report and Accounts for 2008 and Roy Love has spoken to them. Although uncertainty and negative change in the global economic situation have inevitably adversely impacted on Glenthorne's income, there was an end of year surplus and the refurbishment and maintenance programme was sustained. Trustees are monitoring the 2009 situation closely.

Trustees have now broadened and clarified the trust objects and have created a new Trust Document to bring it up to date. A new trading subsidiary, Glenthorne Guest House Limited, was established as of July 2009 and operates alongside the Glenthorne Quaker Centre charity.

This separation of objects is working well.

The changes to the Glenthorne Friend in Residence scheme are proving effective. We were interested to hear about the programme events offered, including the growth of the Welcome Project, offering respite to asylum seekers and refugees.

In conclusion, trustees encourage Friends and Meetings to consider their own support for this splendid resource. This support might be financial, but could equally be through participating in events or by offering help on committees or as trustees.

We thank Glenthorne trustees for their report.

Minute 5 Appointments

The Nominations Committee brings forward the following names of Friends to serve in the posts indicated:

Co-clerk: Barbara Parry (Leeds - Rawdon) to serve a 1st term from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012.

Treasurer: George Race (Brighouse West Yorkshire - Hebden Bridge) to serve a 1st term from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2012.

Under 19s Coordinating Group: Chris Hughes (York - Friargate) to serve a 1st term from now to 31 December 2012.

Breckenbrough School Governors: Kathie McLelland (Craven & Keighley) to serve a first term from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013.

West Yorkshire Ecumenical Council: Eva Pinthus (Leeds) to serve a third term from 1 January 2010 to 31 December 2013.

These names being acceptable, our Friends are duly appointed.

Releases

Bootham School Committee: Paul Redgate and David Laverick (on appointment as Clerk of the School Committee). We have heard of possible concern about the reason for Paul Redgate's request for release and ask our Clerk to seek further information.

Breckenbrough School Governors: Due to an oversight the request for release of Maggie Waterworth from December 2007 was not notified to us.

Yorkshire Historic Churches Trust: Roderick Ogley (due to ill health).

The Friends are thanked for their service.

Custodians of Yorkshire Quaker Archives

We are responsible for the Yorkshire Quaker Archives held on our behalf in the Special Collection section of the Brotherton Library, University of Leeds. It consists of the Carlton Hill (Leeds) archives, the Clifford Street (York) archives, and many other Yorkshire Quaker papers. Oliver Pickering has retired as Deputy Head of Special Collections. He undertook most of the work of looking after the Archives and we thank him for his valuable and dedicated service. He is willing to continue to advise on the archives. It has been decided to

support him with two other Friends who will form a team to oversee the use of the archives and advise the University Library as necessary.

We appoint the following Friends to be Custodians of Archives for 4 years to 31 December 2013:

Oliver Pickering (Leeds, Ilkley)

Diane Exley (Leeds, Rawdon)

Pat Midgley (Pickering & Hull, Beverley).

Nomination of members of York Schools Committees

The procedure for nominating Friends to serve on Bootham and The Mount School Committees could be improved by reverting to the procedure outlined in the 2001 Instrument of Government which states that: "The Convenor of the Nominations Committee shall consult with the clerk of each School Committee about the needs of the Committee in terms of expertise and experience. Two members of each School Committee shall be appointed by that Committee to join with the Nominations Committee for this particular part of its business."

Minute 6 Organisation of Committees and Groups

A review has taken place of the organisation and reporting structure of the groups and committees which come under the general umbrella of QiY. The aim is to ensure that the groups work effectively and efficiently and receive adequate support. This particularly applies to the three groups providing activities for under 19s. These groups have evolved over the years and fulfil their function well. They have done so largely independently of the main QiY but they need our support and we need to be reassured that safeguarding issues are covered.

The following changes are agreed.

- The three under 19's group will report to an enhanced Under 19's Coordinating Group which has the purpose of coordinating all QiY under 19s activities, providing a complaint system as required by legislation, deal with issues of safeguarding, ensure pastoral care of staff and participants.
- The members of both the Yorkshire Junior Holidays and the QiY Arrangements Committee will be appointed internally and so Area Meetings no longer need to find names. Existing members will continue until the end of their term of office. In both cases Nominations Committee will seek to provide geographic representation.
- All appointments to QiY groups and committees should be confirmed at a QiY quarterly meeting.

Appointments to QiY groups should follow the normal BYM practice of being for three calendar years unless otherwise specified. Friends normally serve for two terms and exceptionally for a third term. Appointments made to fill a vacancy do not count towards the two terms.

The Finance & Trusts Committee is asked to review the funding of all the committee and groups to ensure that they have adequate funds available.

A summary of each Group and Committee is attached to the minutes.

Minute 7 Registration as a Charity

Further to Minute 4 of our meeting held in April 2009, David Robson, Clerk of the Finance and Trusts Committee, has told us of progress towards Quakers in Yorkshire registering as a charity. Consultations have been had with the Quaker Stewardship Committee who are interested in Yorkshire being used as a test case for the ex-General Meetings which continue as Regional Gatherings. A draft Governing Document has been produced which is closely based on the model being used by Area Meetings. This is to emphasise that Quakers in Yorkshire is part of the family of Britain Yearly Meeting and exists to provide pan-Yorkshire services to Quakers and non-Quakers in the seven Area Meetings.

The draft Governing Document assumes that Quakers in Yorkshire will incorporate within the registration Quaker Outreach in Yorkshire, Yorkshire Friends Holiday School, Yorkshire Link Group and Yorkshire Junior Holidays. The current responsibilities for the York Schools are assumed to continue, as well as all other appointments.

We agree to send this minute and the draft Governing Document to the seven Area Meetings asking for their agreement.

Minute 8 Yearly Meeting Gathering 2009

The Yearly Meeting Gathering was held at the University of York from 25 July to 1 August 2009. It was a successful event which attracted about 1700 participants of all ages including Junior Yearly Meeting and an extensive under 19's programme.

The event benefited from our experience in 2005 which enabled attention to be given to many aspects, such as how to make day visitors feel part of the Gathering.

The success was partly due to the large number of Yorkshire Friends who assisted in many ways. Some Friends devoted considerable time to it. Many meetings also assisted with the programme of visits.

We are grateful to all Friends who helped in large or small ways to ensure that participants went away feeling that they had received a warm Yorkshire welcome.

Minute 9 Inreach and Outreach in the 21st century

David Bowgett has introduced a session on behalf of Quaker Outreach Yorkshire on Inreach and Outreach in the 21st century. He has reminded us that Quakers began as missionaries who strongly believed that they had something to offer the public and that they were prepared to make considerable sacrifices for their faith. At some later times, Quakers in Britain adopted an inward looking attitude which left us with our current dislike of evangelism and lack of missionary zeal. However we have a lot to offer and there are many people who are seeking a faith to believe in. Quaker Quest has been successful but this has sometimes shown that we are often timid about speaking about what we believe in and discussing it with interested enquirers. We need to have the courage to say - Yes we have something of value and that we ought to tell others about it. We are often too comfortable in our current

practices and reluctant to move out of this comfort zone.

We have divided into seven groups and discussed specific scenarios involving the potential for outreach. The brainstorming has made us realise that we should all be involved in Inreach and Outreach. We hope to continue our thinking in our local meetings.

We thank David Bowgett and Quaker Outreach in Yorkshire for initiating this session. We strongly support Quaker Outreach in Yorkshire in their work on our behalf.

Minute 10 Retiring Officers

We thank all the Friends whose term of office ends this year and who have served Quakers in Yorkshire in various positions. We are particularly grateful for the service of Barbara Windle as co-Clerk for the last six years and of Alastair Cook as Treasurer for the last seven years.

Concluding Minute

We thank Hull Friends for their hospitality today. We look forward to meeting again in Leeds on Saturday 16 January 2010, God willing.

David Olver
Barbara Windle

17 October 2009

Quaker in Yorkshire - Groups and Committees - October 2009

Quaker Outreach Yorkshire

Purpose To organise outreach and in-reach activities in support of local and area meetings, including arranging events for enquirers, newcomers and attenders; arranging the annual Easter Settlement; collating and publicising resources and information; running the Quakers in Yorkshire website.

Membership Up to three members from each AM plus representatives from under 19's groups.

Reports to QiY

Easter Settlement Committee

Purpose To organise the annual Easter Settlement.

Membership 3 to 5 members appointed by QOY.

Reports to QOY. Seeks advice from U19CG as necessary.

Note QOY reviewed and improved this committee earlier in the year.

Under 19s Coordinating Group (U19CG)

Purpose To coordinate all QiY under 19s activities, provide a complaint system as required by legislation, deal with issues of safeguarding, ensure pastoral care of staff and participants, network with local and national Quakers, ensure Quaker element remains prominent.

Membership 4 members nominated by QiY Nominations Committee (NC) plus one representative from each under 19s group.

Reports to QiY

Yorkshire Friends Holiday School

Purpose To organise an annual Holiday School for young people age 13 to 18

Membership The organising committee appoints its own members.

Reports to U19CG.

Note Has been successfully organising holidays since 1933 and is self-contained.

Yorkshire Young Friend Link Group

Purpose To arrange weekends and other events for young people age 13 to 18.

Membership 3 to 5 members

Reports to U19CG

Note Needs at least another 2 members.

Yorkshire Junior Holidays

Purpose To organise weekends for young people age 10 to 12.

Membership 7 members

Reports to U19CG.

Change from present Members are currently appointed by AMs. This is unique among the U19 groups and seems unnecessary because members must have the right experience to be able to take part in the organisation. Propose that appointments should be made internally by a combination of the QiY Nominations Committee and the U19CG.

Finance & Trusts Committee

Purpose To make grants and otherwise acting as trustees for the bequests which are directly responsibility of QiY; to exercise stewardship, on behalf of QiY, in relation to bodies where QiY has a material interest; to oversee the finances of Quakers in Yorkshire; to prepare annual accounts.

Reports to: QiY

Membership Clerk and Treasurer nominated by QiY NC; one representative appointed by each AM; the Clerks of QiY are co-opted members.

Nominations Committee

Purpose To find Friends willing to serve as officers of QiY; members of QiY groups; governors/trustees of schools and other bodies; other appointments as requested by QiY.

Membership Two representative appointed by each AM. The Committee appoints its own Convenor.

Reports to: QiY

Arrangements Committee

Purpose To make arrangements for QiY quarterly meetings; to advice the Clerks as required; to review the arrangements for QiY meetings; to plan future meetings and other activities. The committee meets once per year.

Membership QiY clerks plus seven Friends, one from each AM. One of the QiY Clerks acts as convenor.

Reports to: QiY

Change from present: Deals with internal arrangements so AMs could be relieved of the responsibility and names come from QiY NC, maintaining geographic balance. One AM clerk invited to attend from each AM.