

## **Our Highlights from Britain Yearly Meeting, Friends' House, 24th-27th May 2019**

It was lovely to see and talk to people I hadn't seen for a long time.

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I went to a new Journeyman Theatre production. This time the title was Rock and a hard place. It was exploring the prevalence of domestic abuse in our society and the struggles faced by the women's refuges to survive in today's climate of government cuts.

I learnt that one could be privileged and unprivileged at the same time.

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Small group meetings and one to one conversations are an important part of Yearly Meeting.

As elders we had a lot of comments, about there being not enough silence between contributions of spoken ministry, during worship time, leading into sessions.

I felt the Yearly Meeting topic was only partly covered and will be continued in future years at Yearly Meeting.

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Arriving at BYM I was feeling very anxious in relation to the world in general and the BYM agenda in particular. In the event I found the whole weekend life changing. I realised I was learning much that I needed to understand and an altered perspective away from shame and guilt, towards love and joy for the world and every thing in it, as an infinitely better basis for action.

I came home wanting to follow the advice at the end of Minute 33 – to try and share something of the experience with F/friends who had missed it. So a few of us have, with the blessing of AM, made a plan to hold a few sessions in the autumn based on inspirational footage from BYM, to give people a glimpse of what happened and a chance to mull it over with F/friends.

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The message from Yearly Meeting relates directly to the story of Jesus in the temple overturning the tables. We today need to overturn our own tables.

I felt at times inspired, emotional and overwhelmed by the the personal stories of friends who gave ministry of their lived experience of diversity, privilege and disprivilege. The weekend was often intense and heartfelt.

I was impressed by the clerks ability to discern a way forward encapsulated in Minute 33, which has been disseminated to all meetings.

