

## Quakers in Yorkshire

I have, as the Sheffield and Balby representative, on the arrangements committee been asked to speak about Quakers in Yorkshire (QIY) to Area Meeting to help raise its profile.

QIY started in 1665 as Quarterly Meeting, in those days it was the in between stage between Monthly (now Area) Meetings and London (now Britain) Yearly Meeting. In 1966 it became Yorkshire General Meeting as part of a simplification of the administrative structure of the yearly meeting. In 2005 the name was changed to QIY and in 2007 as with the other regional gathering it stopped being part of the administrative structure of Britain Yearly Meeting.

QIY holds four meetings a year usually on the third Saturday of the Month of January, April, July and October.

It has some responsibility to the Mount and Bootham schools in York, and also makes trustee appointments to Breckenbrough School in Thirsk and The Retreat, York, and supports the charitable objects of Glenthorne Quaker Centre.

It is responsible for Junior holidays for children 7-12 year olds and Holiday school for 13-18 year olds and Easter settlement which consists of periods for worship, sessions considering particular topics of interest to Quakers, outdoor walks and social activities for Friends of all ages.

There is also the Outreach Project committee which give grants to meetings in Yorkshire to help with outreach activities. And QIY has funds which can be given to individuals or Meetings for learning activities, It was this fund that payed for the 'Woodbrooke on the Road' event recently held at Sheffield Central Meeting House.

A bit more now about the QIY meetings held Quarterly. All members and attenders of the seven Area Meetings are welcome to attend. The meetings are hosted by a different local meeting and last from 10.30 until 4pm. except in July when the meeting finishes at 1pm and the afternoon is spent partaking a social activity in the afternoon. The meetings conduct some business, including appointing to bodies for which QIY is responsible and receiving reports. It also has guest speakers providing opportunities for learning on a subject that

Quakers have a special interest. The subjects over the past few meetings have included, Modern slavery, Friends work overseas, Politics in the Middle East, and our Friend Craig Barnet on renewal. The next meeting on the 27th April at Doncaster Paul Parker is talking about the Vibrancy project and simplifying meetings, and on the 20th July in Skipton the talk will be about Sanctuary Meetings.

More information can be found on <http://quakersinyorkshire.org.uk/> .

Faith Rodger