

Minute from the Young People's Programme at BYM 2016

From the 27th to the 30th May 2016, 40 young people and 5 Adult volunteers met at Felden Lodge, Hemel Hempstead, to consider the theme of "Why are Quakers active in the world?- considering what we as young Quakers can do."

We explored the theme through a variety of speaker sessions, discussions and activities. On Saturday Lee Taylor told us the amazing stories of Mama Rosa, John Woolman and herself as they followed through on the promptings they experienced.

Later on we split into four groups to discuss Climate change, Poverty, Refugees and LGBT+. We discussed our experiences, thoughts and what we could do to make a difference.

We had a session in which the Adult volunteers shared their experiences of promptings and how they acted upon them. We then went into our base groups- small groups we gathered in regularly throughout the event, which were like our family- to create parodies of popular songs based on the four themes we had discussed earlier.

On Sunday afternoon we joined the BYM session- "Living out our faith in the world; recognising, testing and supporting concerns." which allowed us to explore our own concerns whilst listening to the views of the Quaker community as a whole, and helped us feel a valid part of BYM. Two young people felt prompted to minister during the session and were heard. We stayed at Friends House to witness the burial of JYM's time capsule, and to visit the groups fair.

On Monday we had a Q&A session with Cait Gould, Laurence Hall and Holly Wallis addressing the question: "What can young Quakers do?" We heard their stories and considered the question for ourselves.

We explored the Quaker business method through holding our own Meeting for Worship for Business and nominating next year's Arrangements Committee.

Over the whole event we explored our purpose as young Quakers, and our thoughts on various topics. We look forward to the future of Quakerism.

YPP 2016