

# Journeys in the Spirit

inward outward upward downward



Youth Edition

Issue 33

February 2018

## Sanctuary Everywhere

The youth edition of Journeys in the Spirit provides a range of ideas to use with 12–18 year olds in a Quaker context. It offers activities for one-off sessions or weekends and comes out three times a year. Some suggestions are made about age suitability. Timings are not stated, as this will depend on the group and how the activities are used. Each issue explores a theme.

Journeys in the Spirit is offered with the intention of providing an opportunity for exploring, creating and learning in an atmosphere of worship in partnership on our shared journey in the spirit. There are four directions to our spiritual journey: inwards to ourselves; outwards to others; upwards (or is it further inwards?) towards the deeper mystery; downwards to the world we live in.

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### The theme for this issue

Around the world there are many people who need to leave their homes because of war, economic injustice or because their lives are at risk. Sometimes they have to move to other countries, including Britain.

This edition of Journeys in the Spirit is all about the kinds of reasons that mean people need to leave their homes. It will also look at how Quakers and others are helping create places of sanctuary, in Britain and around the world.

It goes on to encourage young people to think about what they might be able to do to contribute to Quaker initiatives or to make a difference through their own actions.

### Using the material

This material is designed to be used with 12 – 18 year Quaker young people. This might be through a series of one-off sessions or as a theme for a longer day event or residential.

It is good to try and use the ideas from a variety of 'Points', as this ensures that there are a balance of approaches. Hopefully this will make what you do suitable for a range of different young people.

The material is also adaptable to use with adults, or adults and young people together. Also aspects would work well in worship for all ages.

Do consider especially whether any of this might be used more widely in Refugee Week in June.



# Gathering Points

## Gather

Have a period of stillness. Ensure that everyone knows who everyone else is, perhaps starting with a simple name game of a round of introductions. Then ask each person to share why they think some people need to escape from their countries of birth. Do this first in twos or three and then ask for thoughts to be shared in the whole group.

## Initial thoughts

Explain that around the world more than 60 million people have needed to leave their homes because of war, poverty or persecution. More than 5 million are from Syria in the Middle East, where the government, rebels and foreign armies are fighting one another.

Then watch the drone footage from Aleppo in Syria [www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9CSqWQBpOo](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a9CSqWQBpOo).

After watching this explain that someone who has to flee their country of birth is known as a refugee. For as long as the word has existed, Quakers have worked to welcome refugees.



# Starting Points

## Quotes

Cut up the five quotes that you can find at [www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth), scrolling down to 'Resources for current issue' and selecting 'Quotes' under Starting Points. Hand out the quotes, which are from Quakers who welcome refugees to Britain, for people who so wish to read when they are ready.

After the quotes have been read out ask people what they think their Meetings could do to help welcome people from other countries? Are there things that are happening already that they are aware of?

## The Children of Reading Meeting

Read a version of the well-known story of the children of Reading Meeting that you can find at [www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth), scrolling down to 'Resources for current issue' and selecting 'The children of Reading Meeting' under Starting Points.

Ask the young people how they think they would have felt had they been the children in the story. Perhaps they could act out the story amongst themselves and then describe their feelings while they are still in character.



# Reflection Points

## Reza's journey

There are still some parts of the world where people are not allowed to go to the place of worship they want to. One of these places is Iran where it is against the law to become a Christian. Many of the people who escape to Britain, come from Iran. You can find a story about one such person at [www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth), scrolling down to 'Resources for current issue' and selecting 'Reza's journey' under Reflection Points.

Read the story to the group.

After hearing the story, give an opportunity for individuals to draw a picture depicting the journey. If possible have a range of different materials for this (chalks, charcoal, felt pens, crayons, paints). Play some music in the background while there is time for people to create.

Afterwards ask people to consider how they felt when reflecting on Reza's journey. Offer an opportunity for people to share their feelings, either in small groups or all together.

## Fleeing

Ask people if they have ever fled from somewhere. Encourage them to share the story of this and as they do so to identify how they felt.

Ask the young people to make a list of things that they would take with them if they needed to flee from their home, remembering that they have to carry whatever they take. What about if they could only take ten things, which things would they be. Encourage the group to share their ten things with each other and see if there is commonality in the items suggested.

## Finding sanctuary

The word sanctuary is an old fashioned one that has recently come again to the fore. Ask the young people to share words and ideas that the word conjures up for them. Create a word cloud on a large sheet to capture all the ideas. Take a moment of stillness, during which ask the young people to imagine their place of sanctuary.

The following words are from written by Lisa Kahn and taken from her website 'Finding Sanctuary' [www.findingsanctuary.com/](http://www.findingsanctuary.com/):

*Our spirits are profoundly impacted by the environments around us. When designed well, our spaces can cradle our bodies AND our spirits. They can inspire us and remind us of what is important in our lives. To me, sanctuary means a space of our own where we are nurtured, supported in our efforts to explore and express ourselves. Where it's safe to be our most vulnerable, where we can go to discover who we really are. Always knowing that if we stumble or fall, our sanctuary will hold us, house us, and remind us that everything is – and always will be – okay.*

Read out the above piece and then offer an opportunity for young people to create their own writing about sanctuary. This might be in the form of poetry, prose or a collection of words. If possible have some good quality paper and writing materials for this activity. Play some reflective music and encourage people to be quiet and immerse themselves in the activity.



## Listening points

### Sanctuary

The Christian worship song 'Lord prepare me to be a Sanctuary' consists of the words:

*Lord prepare me to be a sanctuary, pure and holy, tried and true,  
and with thanksgiving I'll be a living sanctuary for you.*

This can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=o\\_eIJalH8z4](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=o_eIJalH8z4). It is very different to what lots of Quaker young people will be used to hearing and not what they will probably relate to as worship. Play the song, asking the young people to try and move beyond their initial feelings and reflect on what it might mean in a Quaker context to be a living sanctuary. Afterwards explore with the group their thoughts about this. Maybe go on to ask them what it might mean for them to be pure and holy, tried and true.

### Quaker work for Sanctuary

At [www.quaker.org.uk/sanctuary](http://www.quaker.org.uk/sanctuary) (scrolling down to Q Witness near the bottom of the page) there are three podcasts about Quaker work for Sanctuary. Listen to some or all of these and ask the young people for their views on what they have heard.

### A bit of Bubl 

Listen to the Michael Bubl  song 'Home' released 26.10.09. Afterwards ask the young people in groups to come up with a list of the things they would miss if they were away from home. If possible each group should capture their ideas on a big sheet and then share these with other groups. Then altogether encourage people to imagine what it is like for refugees who have left home without knowing if they can ever return. The song with lyrics can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VASbtWejos0>.



## Viewing Points

### Kurt Strauss

At [www.quaker.org.uk/migration](http://www.quaker.org.uk/migration) there is a two minute video with featuring peace campaigner Kurt Strauss who as a child was helped by Quakers to escape from the Nazis.

After watching this, explore with the group what it means to be a Sanctuary Meeting. There is information about this at the above link.

### Refugee children

Watch a short video made by children in a refugee camp [www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9FfjpbjJ3o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9FfjpbjJ3o).



# Talking points

## Stories in the Quaker timeline

Hand out the stories and pictures in the Quaker timeline which you can find at [www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth), scrolling down to 'Resources for current issue' and selecting 'Stories in the Quaker timeline' under Talking Points. Print each one on a separate sheet.

Give them out to individuals or small groups. Ask people to get themselves in the order that the events depicted happened in. Encourage discussion throughout, particularly explaining what each sheet refers to.

The answer is as follows: Foundation of Pennsylvania 1681; Underground Railroad 1786 – 1865; WW1 1914-1918; Spanish Civil War 1936-39; WW2 1939 – 1945 (although the Germany Emergency Committee began in 1933 and the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded in 1948); Sanctuary Movement: 1980 – present day.



## Sanctuary Meetings

Today many Quaker Meetings are 'Sanctuary Meetings', supporting local projects to welcome people, standing against racism in of its forms, and working together to change laws which discriminate against people born abroad. Information on how to go about being a Sanctuary Meeting can be found at [www.quaker.org.uk/sanctuary](http://www.quaker.org.uk/sanctuary).

The 'Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto', agreed in December 2017 begins *"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."*

Ask the young people if they know whether their local meeting is a Sanctuary Meeting. Provide an opportunity for those whose meetings are Sanctuary Meetings to say what this means in practice.



# Action points

## Some ideas of things to do

### 1. Perform a play

Read one or both of the stories from Starting Points or Reflections Points, then turn the story into a play to perform at the end of Meeting for Worship, where one person reads the story, and others play the characters in it.

### 2. Make a timeline

Create a Quaker timeline of things that the local meeting has done in relation to refugees over the years. This might take a bit of researching but there will be people from the meeting that can help. Write statements and have pictures to illustrate each action taken. Design these on separate sheets in an attractive fashion and then find a place to display them in the meeting house. They might like to add a blank sheet for what may happen in future.

### 3. Visiting speaker

If there are people you know or people in the meeting who are welcoming people to Britain, could you invite them to speak to the young people?

### 4. Organise an event for Refugee Week

In Refugee Week (in June), community organisations across Britain put on events about refugees. Could you host something at your meeting, or encourage the young people to speak to their school about why they are concerned?

### 5. Write to your MP

Every UK citizen has a Member of Parliament (MP), who makes decisions on our behalf. As a group of young people create a letter asking your MP what they are doing to raise issues in parliament relating to refugees.

### 6. Speak to your meeting

Is your Meeting a Sanctuary Meeting? If so – ask what the latest action is and get involved. If not – what might you be able to do to raise this as a possibility for your meeting?

### 7. Write to your local newspaper

At [www.christianaid.org.uk/change-the-story](http://www.christianaid.org.uk/change-the-story) there is a website that helps you find your local newspaper and write to them about why you want your area to be more welcoming to refugees. If you do this as a group of young people it stands more chance of being printed.



## Worship points

### Readings for worship

Recognise that this is a difficult topic and that it might be hard for the young people to know they can do to make a difference. Have a time of quiet, maybe playing some music from the Adiemus 'Songs of Sanctuary' album that can be found at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQP7m9VNpO8](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hQP7m9VNpO8).

Ask for a volunteer or two to read, within the worship time, one or both of the quotes included below.

*War is bad. No long-term good ever comes of it. Be aware of prejudices and try to work past them. Try to understand the causes of injustice and change them. Don't just live in your own little bubble, there's a big world out there.*

Advices & Queries 31-34, as compiled by Young Quakers.

*"I was hungry. You gave me food. I was thirsty. You gave me a drink. I was a stranger. You took me in. I needed clothes. You gave me clothes. I was sick. You came to visit me. I was in prison. You came to see me...I tell you the truth. What you did for even the smallest of these people you did for me."*

Jesus' last public speech before his arrest.

Further quotes can be found at [www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth](http://www.quaker.org.uk/resources-youth), scrolling down to 'Resources for current issue' and selecting 'Readings for worship' under Worship Points.



## Ending Points

### Taking it forward

Ask the young people if they know of people in their Meeting who are helping welcome people to Britain? If so what might they be able to do to help and support them?

Work with the young people to find out if there are local charities that they might be able help fundraise for or volunteer at.

Have a discussion all together to explore what can be done to make the locality more welcoming to newcomers?

Ask the young people if they think that their Meeting is always welcoming to people of all different backgrounds? What could they do to make it more so?

Are there refugees in the locality who could be invited to join the Quaker youth group?

## Review

Those responsible for planning and coordinating the use of this material should come together to review and reflect. Some questions that might be helpful to consider as a part of this are:

- How has engaging with this issue enabled young people to develop knowledge and understanding about current world migration?
- Have young people been able to express their thoughts and feelings about refugees?
- In what ways have young people explored the Quaker response and opportunities in relation to offering sanctuary?

How might young people link up with others in their meetings who might be exercised by these issues?

Could the young people present their thoughts and feelings to adults in meeting?

## Additional resources & links

Quakers in Britain Sanctuary Everywhere Programme: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/our-work/social-justice/migration>

Quakers in Britain Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto: <http://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-challenge-immigration-policy>

Quakers in Britain research: Most of the World's Refugees are from countries invaded by Britain: <https://www.opendemocracy.net/uk/timothy-gee/most-of-worlds-refugees-are-from-countries-invaded-by-britain>

## Links to other organisations

Christian Aid: Youth Collective page on refugees:

<http://www.christianaidcollective.org/taxonomy/term/2>

Schools of Sanctuary: Could your school help welcome people too?

<https://schools.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Refugee Week: Could you organise something for Refugee Week in June?

<http://refugeeweek.org.uk/>

UNHCR: Teaching about Refugees:

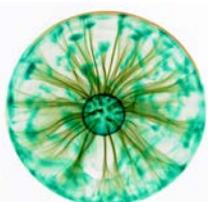
<http://www.unhcr.org/uk/teaching-about-refugees.html>

## This issue

This issue of *Journeys in the Spirit* Youth Edition was written by Tim Gee. The editor was Howard Nurden.

## Next issue

The next issue of *Journeys in the Spirit* Youth Edition will be on Well Being, it will be sent out on Monday 11 June.



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