



Journeys in the Spirit

inward outward upward downward

Children's work edition Issue 52 June 2011



Jack Hoyland, Quaker and bear maker

Getting ready

This issue tells the story of a remarkable Quaker called John Hoyland, Jack to his friends, whose whole life was spent helping people. He was a parent, teacher, sportsman, poet and wrote 60 books! The bear making came much later in his life. It is because of one of his bears that you are going to hear about Jack's life, his work in India and in Birmingham.

My little bear, which started me on this 'Quakerly 'bear hunt', is very special. He's actually a 'cub' - because he's not very big - see sidebar on this page for a picture of him. My Mum, who had just joined Quakers, gave him to me to when I was about 11. She had been at a Quaker Meeting for Business, where a tall elderly man with big strong hands was making a small bear, while listening carefully and contributing to the Meeting. His name was Jack Hoyland.

Jack learnt to make his bears while in hospital in 1954. He made the first ones for his grandchildren and as gifts for the youngest blind children at Birmingham Royal Institute for the Blind. Then Jack thought of making bears for UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), the charity which helps children all round the world. Every bear that Jack made and sold meant food for starving children. He wanted to cure deadly diseases (like yaws) and fill hungry tummies. His 'bear work' was even more eloquent than the speeches he made round the country. Newspapers interviewed him and he was photographed surrounded by his teddies. His friend Reginald Reynolds said of Jack, "*Here was a man who age and illness could not stop*".

Before he died in 1957 Jack had made and sold more than 4,000 bears raising almost £2,000 for UNICEF and other causes. This was a huge amount of money, especially when you think the average wage in the 1950's was about £400.00 a year. He kept a 'Bear Book' with the number and costs of every bear, and the name, address and country of each buyer. I wonder what number my cub was?

"Journeys in the Spirit" offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with children and young people.

This children's work edition comes out monthly. It offers resources and ideas to Quakers engaging with 5 –12 year olds in a Quaker setting.

It provides opportunities for exploring, creating and learning in an atmosphere of worship in partnership on our shared journey in the spirit.

Gather

Ask everyone bring a teddy bear or other special soft toy to Meeting.

Everyone sits in a circle. When all are settled say something like:

'We'll go round the circle and each of you can introduce your bear. Tell us its name, who gave it to you, and how long you have had it. When you hold your bear how does it make you feel? What do you like best about your bear? Have you ever lost your bear? I wonder how you felt then. Why do you think everyone likes teddy bears? Do you know any stories about bears?'



My Jack Hoyland cub

Engage

The story of Jack Hoyland.

This tells you something about the life of Jack Hoyland. Depending on children's ages tell a story about some of his life. As you tell the story show the pictures of Jack Hoyland on *Additional Resource 52.A*. He was born in Birmingham in 1887. Jack's parents were Quakers. When he was only six years old, something very sad happened to Jack and his younger brother, Geoffrey. Their mother died. Their father did his best for the boys, but it was very hard for Jack and his young brother, growing up without their mum.

At Secondary school Jack did extremely well in his studies. He was tall, strong and very good at sport. All through his life he had a clear loud voice. At school he would not join the school army cadet corps because he was a Quaker. He said Quakers don't believe that fighting wars will make things better. Some of the boys and teachers criticised him - Jack didn't change his mind even though some people didn't like him for what he did.

After school he went to Cambridge University. He played sports a lot – rowing and rugby. He also joined up with Young Friends at the University. After university in 1911 Jack went to America to a special church school. He went there to learn more about how to talk with people about being a Quaker. After this he went on a long journey by ship from England to Central India to be Head of the Friends High School in Hoshangabad. No jumbo jets in those days!

He was married in India in 1913, to a Quaker called Helen Doncaster, a teacher at the Friends School. In 1914, the First World War started and Jack and Helen were unable to get a ship back to England. Jack carried on as Head of the school and he and Helen had three children. Hungry people in India were badly affected by a terrible flu epidemic. Jack found a way to help. He and some boys went out from the school to the villages with a bullock cart distributing medicine and caring for the sick and dying. It was a very dangerous job. There were man-eating tigers in this area!

Just five years after their marriage, Helen Hoyland died. Two months later their youngest child also died. A very sad Jack Hoyland took his remaining two children back to England, where Helen's family looked after them. He then volunteered to work with the War Victims Relief Service in Europe. This project, run by Quakers, helped Jack forget his own sorrows as he helped to look after sick orphan children in war torn Vienna in a the country called Austria.

Later, Jack went back to India. He remarried and with his new wife, faced the dangers of jungle life as they went from village to village carrying famine relief with them. He was in India until 1928 – he wrote books and ran a high school of 330 boys and two Quaker hostels. He came back to England to Birmingham with his new family. He worked at Woodbrooke Quaker College. Students teased him that they did not need to go to his lectures, because they could hear them loud and clear from their rooms.

During this time, the Second World War started. By 1940, when Jack when was 63, Germany started bombing London. A bomb even hit Buckingham Palace! Jack and a few other Friends helped to find homes in safe areas of the country for people who had become homeless in the bombing raids.

After the War Jack joined The Friends Work Camp Committee. He believed voluntary work camps, using picks and shovels, was a cheerful practical way to help, be a Quaker and a Christian and show that 'giving is better than getting'.

Finally, as Jack grew older and became unwell he started to make bears to help. Lots of people still have their bears – they are every precious.

References & other resources

Quaker faith & practice: 24.31

From a letter George Fox, wrote in prison in 1656:

*"..go through the world and be valiant for the Truth upon earth; tread and trample all that is contrary under...
...Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, wherever you come that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them; then you will come to walk cheerfully all over the world, answering that of God in everyone"*

A book by Jack:
John S. Hoyland, **Silent Dawn. An anthology of prayers.** Friends Home Service Committee, 1964 (Available from the library, Friends House, London)

Additional Resource 52.A can be found at:
www.quaker.org.uk/resources-children

References & other resources

Go to:

www.childreninugandascotland.files.wordpress.com/2009/08/focus-2009-10-annual-report.pdf

for information about the project Edinburgh Friends helped with.

Go to

www.teddiesfortragedies.org.uk

for information about other projects and a pattern for knitting bears.

While Jack worked in India he met and became a friend of Mahatma Gandhi. Gandhi was an Indian lawyer who'd studied in London. He and Jack had lots of ideas in common.



Additional Resource 52.B can be found at: www.quaker.org.uk/resources-children

Respond

Making bears. Jack's teddy bears were sold to pay for wells to be built in Indian villages. He did this because he knew Indian women had to walk in the heat with heavy pots of water. The wells stored clean safe water all year round.

On *Additional Resource 52.B* there are simple patterns for making the shape of a bear to be stuffed and advice about what fabric and stuffing you need. These simple drawings are from Jack's daughter.

Talk with the children about the idea of making bears together. This could be done by children or by the whole Meeting. Practice making one before you introduce the idea in Children's Meeting. This is a project that may take two sessions or maybe one with lots of careful adult help.

Bears could be just for the people making them, they could be gifts for special people or they could be collected to be sent to one of several projects that want bears for children. They could be made to be sold to raise money for the WaterAid charity – see www.wateraid.org/uk/

Friends in Hereford and mid-Wales Area Meeting made knitted bears for the Quaker project, Hlekweni, in Zimbabwe. Friends in Edinburgh made bears for children in Uganda. See sidebar for information about Edinburgh Friends and other similar projects.



A poem by Jack. To finish Jack's story, here is part of a poem he wrote after the death of a favourite dog while he lived in India.

1. *Old friend,
True friend,
Farewell. Long years have we chanced
it together; Through fair weather and
foul, In the dull city round,
On Himalayan snow-slopes,
Mid the cholera, heat and despair
Of a famine May
We have fared together, we two.*

2. *You never grumbled or shirked,
You were never bored or resentful,
You were ever ready for fun or for fight,
You were gentle and game to the end.
Aye, and you loved me too,
God bless you:
In fever, in grief, and in loneliness
You were a comfort, you were,
Old friend.*

3. *No more shall we climb together
Through the pines to the snow,
No more through the forest
Shall we fare forth together at dawn:
No more, in the soft still evening,
Wearied return to our tent.*

4. *Lie peacefully there,
Old friend,
With the lake beneath and the hills
above,
And the scarlet poppies around
Old friend, dear friend,
Lie peacefully there.*

5. *Aye but I loved you,
Aye but I mourn for you.
God be thanked for you.
Old friend,
True friend,
Farewell.*

Read the poem to children. Ask them what it makes them feel; what they like or don't like about it; what it tells them about Jack. Older children might like to write something about something they love or like a lot. or with younger children, have some art materials to create a response to the poem – just say you can draw or paint something about the poem.



Reflect

Here are some questions to choose from to use to reflect on the session:

- Reading the words of George Fox: “Be patterns, be examples...”. What did Fox mean by this? Do you think Jack was a good pattern, a good example? Let’s think of some of the good things Jack did.
- Let’s think how Jack Hoyland overcame the sad things that happened in his life?
- Can we remember some of all the practical ways he helped others?
- What stories about him do you like most?
- Do you think it was strange that Jack made all those bears when he was quite an old man? He tried to make 4 a day!
- We heard that in later life Jack was involved in Quaker workcamps. I wonder if anyone in your Meeting took part in a workcamp? Perhaps you can ask Friends at coffee time after Meeting.
- Jack said that “Giving is better than getting?” What do you think? Do you agree?
- There are still famines and other disasters like floods and earthquakes in the world. Have you ever raised or given money to a charity to help others? Can you tell us what you did?
- What could you make and sell to help?

Review

Reviewing can happen at the time or later, and may be particularly helpful where a series of activities is planned around the same themes. Some useful questions to consider are:

- What went well, and why?
- What didn’t go so well, and why?
- How did the children participate?
- What might you do differently another time?
- How could you involve the adult meeting in what you have done?

This issue was written by Jane Woodford and edited by Chris Nickolay and Howard Nurden. The Topical activity was written by Chris Nickolay.

The next children’s issue of *Journeys in the Spirit* is Issue **53** and is about George Fox and will be available on July 1st. **Issue 54** is about Quaker Benjamin Lay, an eccentric campaigner against slavery, and will be available on August 1st; **Issue 55** is about Waldo Williams a Welsh Quaker, poet and pacifist and will be available on September 1st. These are all part of Series 6, ‘**More Quaker stories**’.

Materials available online are:

Current issue additional resources sheets

An easy to use plan for a Children’s Meeting

A simple plan for an all age Meeting for Worship

A topical activity about a climate change campaign

There is also a ‘How to use *Journeys in the Spirit*’ guide; a link to special issues; an archive of previous issues; a discussion forum and a link to the *Journeys in the Spirit* Youth edition.

Go to:

www.quaker.org.uk/journeyschildren

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Journeys in the Spirit

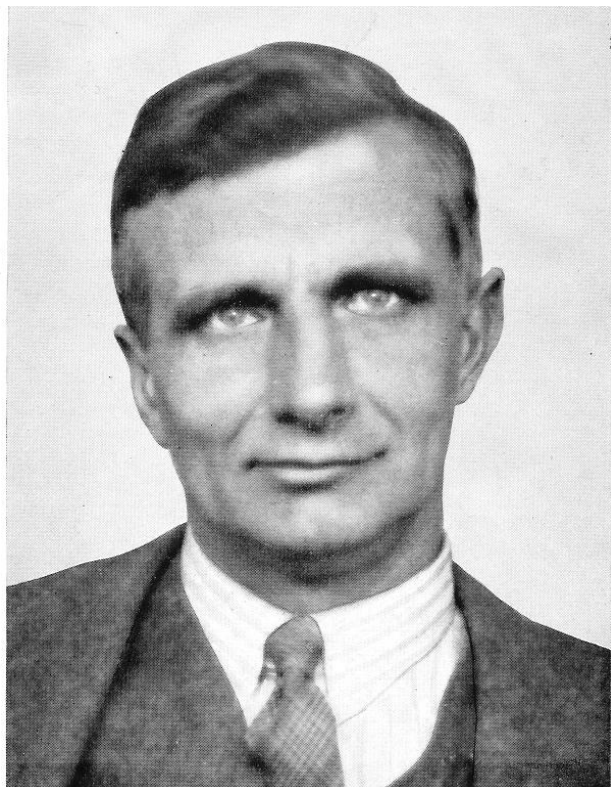


Children's work

Additional Resource 52.A

Gather

Pictures of Jack and two bears



A 'Jack Hoyland bear' poses for *the Friend*.
Photo courtesy of Friends House Library.



Journeys in the Spirit



Children's work

Additional Resource 52.B

Respond

A template for making a bear

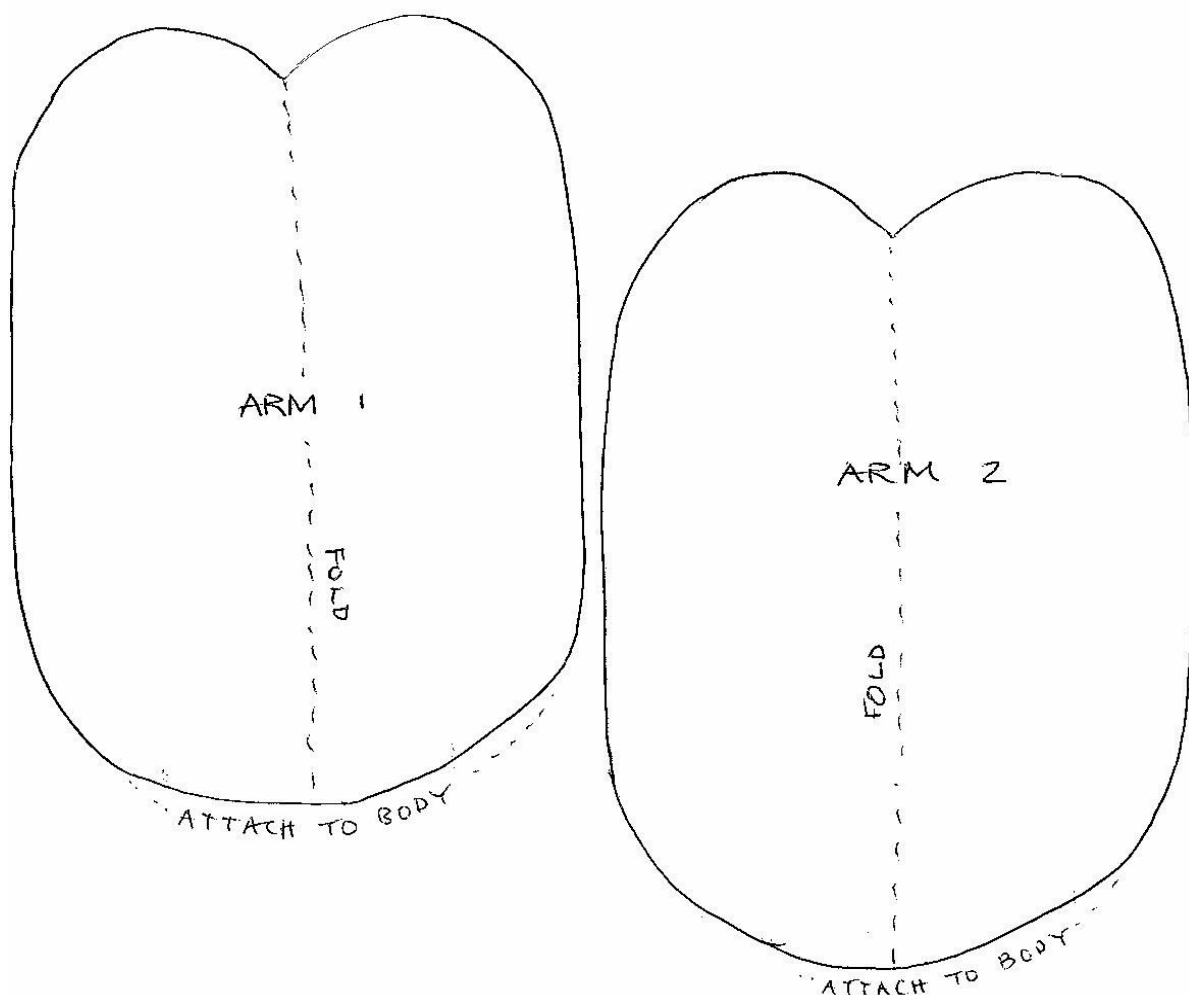
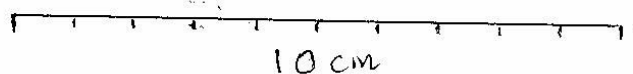
SHEET
1.

TEMPLATE OF JACK HOYLAND'S BEARS,
GIVEN BY HIS DAUGHTER RACHEL GILLIAT
(NÉE HOYLAND)
2011

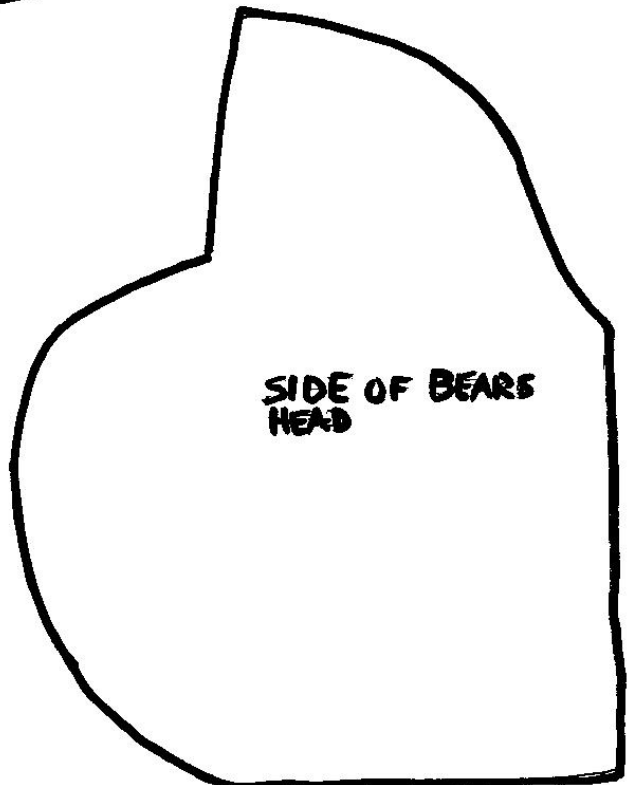
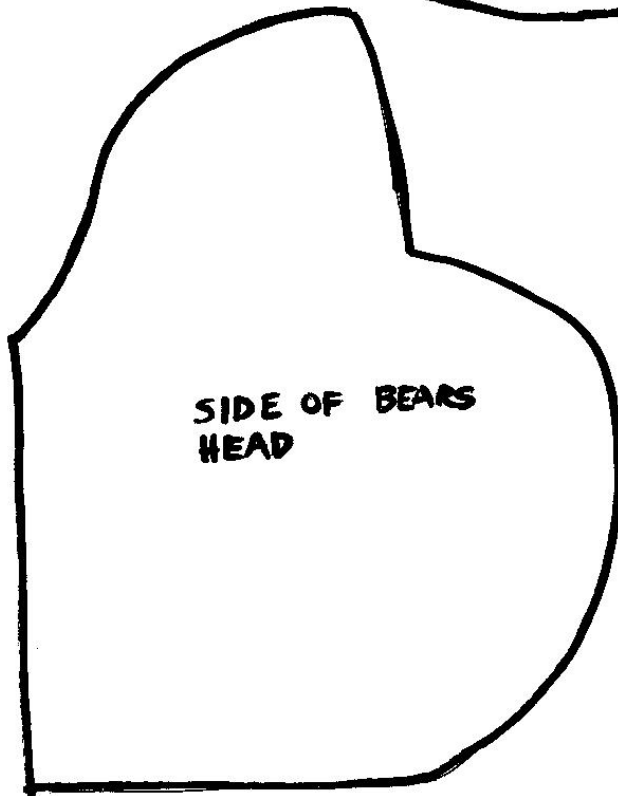
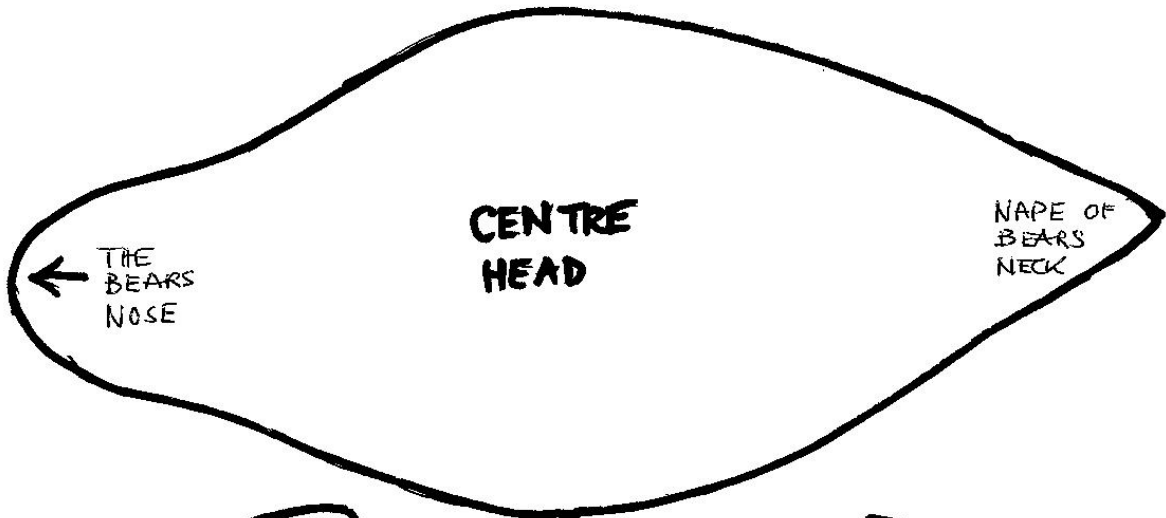
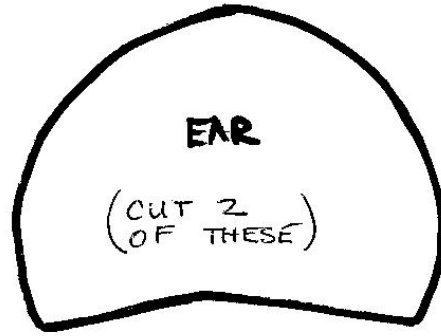
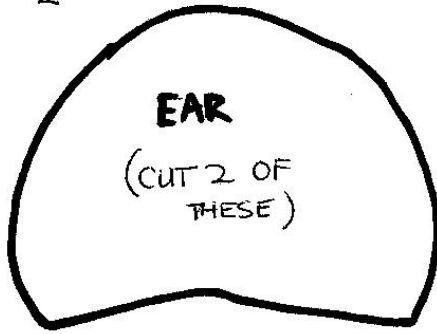
IF MAKING SEVERAL
BEARS, TRACE ALL THESE
SHAPES ONTO CARDS CUT THEM OUT.

USE FUR FABRIC TO MAKE EACH BEAR.
STUFF WITH COTTON WOOL - OR SNIPPED-UP TIGHTS!
(JACK USED BOTH.)

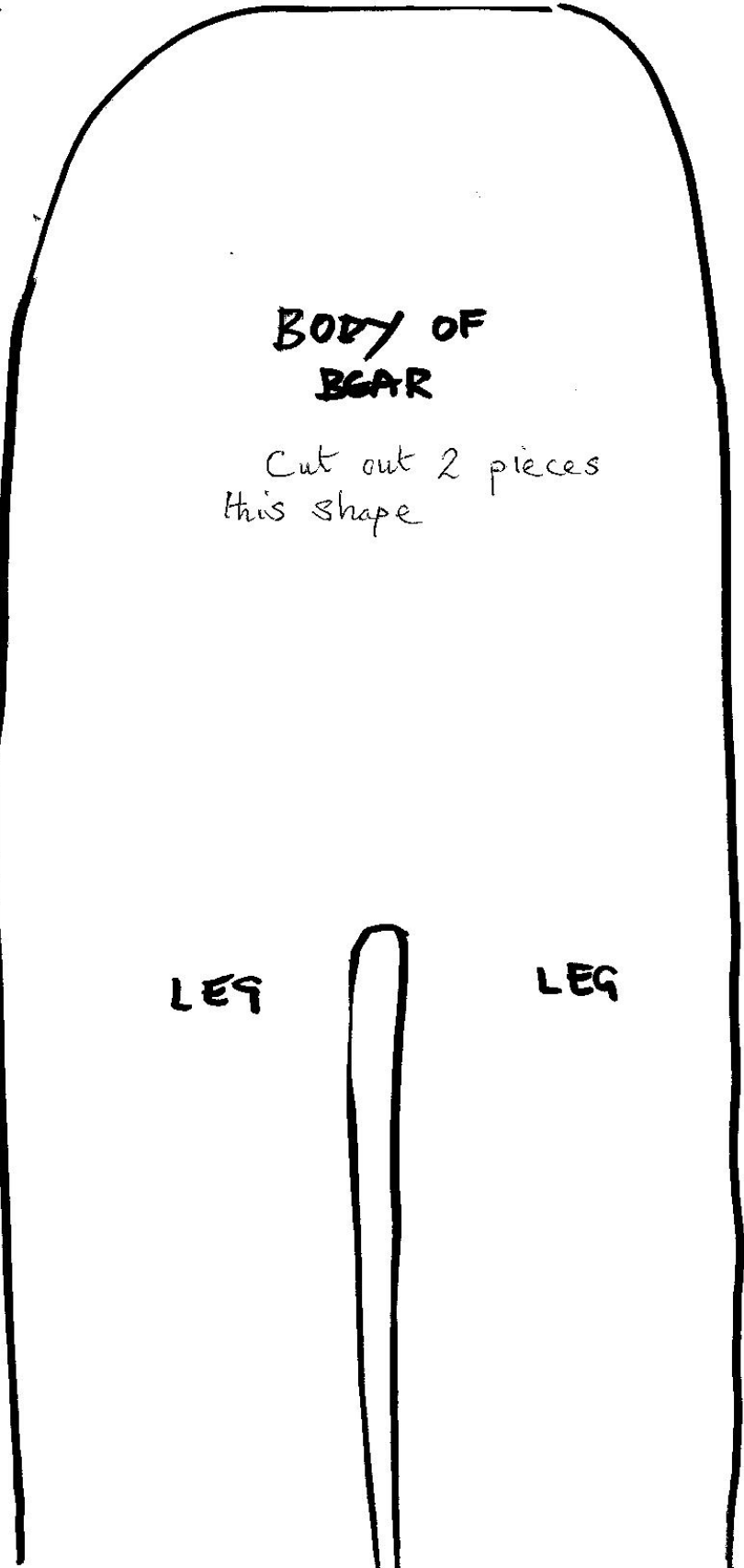
10cm scale on each template shows size of each
Shape



SHEET
2.



TEMPLATE FOR A JACK HOYLAND BEAR
SHEET 3.



**BODY OF
BEAR**

Cut out 2 pieces
this shape

10cm

LEG

LEG



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work

June 2011

Issue 52



An easy to use plan for a Children's Meeting on making bears

Make sure that you have a little time of worship for yourself and other volunteers before the session – even a couple of minutes are good.

This outline is based on there being 45 minutes or so for your children's meeting.

Getting Ready Read through the background to Jack Hoyland in Issue 52 of the children's work edition of *Journeys in the Spirit*. The week before you are doing this session remind children to bring a special teddy or soft toy.

Gather Do the circle and introducing the bear or toy activity on page 1 of issue 52 of the *Children's work edition of Journeys in the Spirit*. After children have said a little bit about their toy ask the other questions. **⌚ 10 mins**

Engage Have everybody sitting comfortably with their bear or toy before telling a story. Tell a story about Jack Hoyland based on the information in the Engage section on page 2 of *Issue 52 of the Children's work edition of Journeys in the Spirit*. Show pictures of Jack and some of the bears that he made. Say how many he made and what they helped with. **⌚ 5 -10 mins**

Respond

Have resources ready for making bears. See page 3 of *Issue 52 of the Children's work edition of Journeys in the Spirit* Make sure that you have asked for extra adult help if it is needed. Templates are on *Additional Resources 52.B*. If this doesn't get finished this session it can be carried over. **⌚ 20 mins**

Reflect Look at and choose one or more of the reflection questions on page 4 *Issue 52 of the Children's work edition of Journeys in the Spirit*. **⌚ 5 mins**



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's Work

June 2011

Issue 52



A simple plan for an all age Meeting for Worship

The week before your all age meeting for worship ask everybody to bring a soft toy or teddy with them when they come to the Meeting. They might be bears that have been made in children's meeting.

Start with some quiet.

Reading from Quaker faith & practice 23.78. This passage was written by Barbara Windle who taught in a Quaker school for many years. It is about the importance of respecting children and young people everywhere.

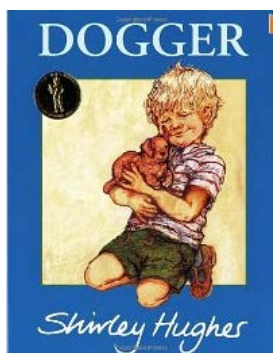
Pause.

Introduction. Acknowledge all the teddies and toys that have been brought to Meeting for Worship. Say that you are going to remember two things today. The first thing is about the way that a Quaker called Jack Hoyland made teddy bears to help people. The second thing is about children who may not have a toy or teddy.

Everybody loves to cuddle a toy or teddy. They can help us feel safe and happy.

Pause.

Read or tell a story. At this point you could tell the story of 'Dogger' written by Helen Oxenbury (about a boy who loses his soft dog). This is available from the Quaker Bookshop or online or, probably, from a local library. Alternatively you could have written a simple outline of the life of Jack Hoyland and it could be told in segments by children and older Friends. Friends of all ages could then be invited, if they want to, to say the name of their toy out loud. Then ask people to think who they might like to help by providing or making bears.



End with stillness and quiet and the sharing of food.



Journeys in the Spirit

Children's work
Topical Activity

June 2011
Issue 52
Helping plan a climate change
day of activity



“Moving Planet is a worldwide rally to demand solutions to the climate crisis—a single day to move away from fossil fuels. For too long, our leaders have denied and delayed, compromised and caved. That era must come to an end. Come on bike, on skates, on a board, or just on foot. Come with your neighbours and your friends, your family and your co-workers. Come be part of something huge. It's time to get moving on the climate crisis.”

Have a look at 350.org website. Look at the pictures of the huge artworks people created – visible from space. Talk with Meeting about what could be planned and shared with other churches or groups for the September action day. Start off by showing children some of the art pictures – have a session with the children to talk about what fun, crazy or silly way of moving could be done to draw attention to getting everybody together to look after our home, the earth.