



**Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 27th February 2010
at Glantwymyn/Cemmaes Road**

2010.01 Opening Worship and Welcome

We are pleased to welcome 33 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

- North Wales: Del Yale, Catherine James, Frank Brown
- Mid Wales: Susan Greaves
- South Wales: Malcolm Thomas (prevented); Lynn Moseley will report as necessary.
- Southern Marches: Joyce Gee

Diana Morrison Smith and Alan Rowland have been appointed to act as Elders.

We have received from North Wales Area Meeting a Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of David Robson, which has been read and endorsed during our opening worship.

We note that South Wales Area Meeting is in touch with York Area Meeting about the preparation of a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Harry Crann, a former clerk of Meeting of Friends in Wales

By the between-meetings procedure, Julia Aspden has been appointed as co-clerk. We thank Catherine James and Lynn Moseley for their service at the table as co-clerk and assistant clerk.

2010.02 *Calon and The Friend*

We appoint Catherine James to report on this meeting for *The Friend* and to report for *Calon*. Julia Aspden has contacted *The Friend*, the editor has said that she would welcome a report, and has given some helpful guidelines.

2010.03 Matters arising from the last meeting

Welsh Peace Institute: we have received a minute from Bangor Meeting asking for a clearer picture of what is proposed. Jane Harries has forwarded information about a series of meetings throughout Wales earlier this week to promote the concept of a Peace Institute for Wales.

2010.04 Quaker Life

- (i) **Representative Council** (minute 09.31 refers): Liz Butler has provided a written report of the Council held 23-25 October 2009 and has introduced this.
- (ii) **Quaker Life Network:** Following a recent Quaker Life Network event, a group has been set up for Network members within Wales to support each other. Julia Aspden is co-ordinating this group.

2010.05 Outreach

- (i) **Eisteddfod:** Gill Branch and Hilary Beynon (Southern Marches) and Mary Cook and Val Evans (South Wales) have been appointed to act as co-ordinators for the Eisteddfod in Ebbw Vale. Deborah Rowlands and Catherine James have drawn up some guidance notes.

- (ii) **Big Outreach Conference 22-24 January 2010.** Alan Thomas has sent us a report on the Big Outreach Conference. Jules Montgomery, our administrator, also attended the conference and has shared some of her impressions. At the outset, Jules was uneasy at the concept of Outreach. She began to realise the difficulty of explaining her Quakerism to others, the importance of finding a common purpose. We are all on a spiritual journey, but we are in different places on that journey. Jules wants to be able to explain what Quakers are and that we are an option for people searching for a spiritual place to be. It is important to focus on our common purpose, and not our differences. Living our testimonies, and using *Advices and Queries*, can provide a focus. Alan and Jules are keen to pass on what they learnt at the conference to a wider group of Friends keen on getting involved with Outreach and suggest a session of MFW, a day meeting or a weekend gathering to focus on the topic. We ask the clerks to take this forward with Alan and Jules and report to our next meeting
- (iii) **Outreach resources review.** The group suggested in minute 09.30(i) was appointed by the between meetings procedures: Alan Thomas (SW) and Catherine James (NW) working with Publications Committee and the new Welsh Language Consultative Group. The group has been given detailed guidance for their task by Deborah Rowlands. The group met on 18th February to review current resources and make a start on the review.

The group will liaise with BYM Outreach section on revision of the range of standard leaflets, to ensure that as many as possible are available in both languages, and that at least two of the new Outreach posters are available in both languages in A3 format.

The group suggests that MFW purchase some new lightweight stands, which can be used to display the existing Exhibition material – we agree to this request and ask our administrator to investigate the cost and bring this to our next meeting.

The group expects to report more fully to our October meeting, following Outreach Week 2010.

2010.06 Arrangements for 2010 and beyond

Report from Arrangements Committee. Liza Brown has presented plans for our June and October meetings, using the theme of sustainability and diminishing resources. She has also given us details about the Retreat, to be held in Aberystwyth on 17 April: Roots, Shoots and Fruits, to be led by Lizz Roe; booking forms are available for Friends to take with them.

Our next meeting (26th June in Montgomery) will be 'Walking the Talk' – what we can practically do for sustainable living. The meeting on 30th October in Aberystwyth will be on Motivating Change – can we reach the non-usual suspects?

Lizz Roe has spoken about the plans for the Retreat, and has introduced us to the spiritual aspects of our response to climate change. She related it to the Grace of God as shown in the Testimony read earlier. How does the Grace of God show in our lives? What does really good community look like? How can we sustain it?

2010.07 Training and support for Quaker roles.

Woodbrooke has consulted us on the most helpful means of training for Elders and Overseers in Wales. We have considered the following questions sent to us by Woodbrooke:

- I. Do one-day training course on eldership and oversight meet the needs of Friends in Wales?
- II. Do Welsh Friends find they are able to attend weekend courses at Woodbrooke on eldership and oversight?
- III. Would it be more helpful if Woodbrooke organised a training session on eldership and oversight as part of a Meeting of Friends in Wales or other regional events in Wales such as area meetings?
- IV. Would you prefer to have separate training in eldership and oversight or is it ok to run it jointly?
- V. How far are Friends willing to travel for training in eldership and oversight?
- VI. Where are the most convenient locations for Welsh Friends to meet together?
- VII. In an ideal world, what training would be provided for Friends working on eldership and oversight in Wales?

We agree to send this minute to local and area meetings in Wales, and to return to this at a future meeting.

2010.08 Financial Matters

- (i) **Annual report and accounts** We receive and approve the annual report and accounts. Catherine James introduced the annual report, and Jon Bell the accounts.
- (ii) **Finance Policy** The procedures given in the finance policy (agreed in 2008) have been looked at. They have been followed carefully by those responsible for our finances. We note that the responsibility for this policy will rest with the MFW Trustees from now on.
- (iii) **Appointment of Assistant Treasurer.** Last year Jon Bell suggested the appointment of an assistant treasurer. We ask Trustees to consider whether this role would be useful.
- (iv) **Budget.** Jon Bell has presented us with a budget for 2010. We will ask for contributions from area meetings at the same rate as last year. We note that we have quite a substantial sum in our reserves at present. The grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative support for Friends in Wales is currently reviewed on an annual basis; we therefore need to keep sufficient funds in the account to sustain the employment of our administrator until other income sources can be found, or other arrangements made. We note that by minute 08.08, we agreed to add any proceeds from the Spiritual Hospitality Project fund to the designated fund for Literature. We note that this fund is available for new publications, which have been agreed by the meeting. We note that we have money in the account for new projects, especially the legacy from John Roberts. Can we be more innovative and creative in fulfilling our purposes?
- (v) **Thanks.** We thank Jon Bell for his service over the past three years.
- (vi) **Cheque signatories:** we authorise any two of Julia Aspden, Lynn Moseley and Deborah Rowlands to sign cheques on behalf of Meeting of Friends in Wales.

2010.09 Governing Document and Terms of Reference for Trustees

The proposed Governing Document and the Terms of Reference for Trustees were circulated to Friends before the meeting for comment, and have been available at this meeting. We agree to adopt both documents.

2010.10 Memorandum of Understanding/Minute of Agreement with Area Meetings in Wales and the Borders

North Wales Area Meeting is going to discuss this at their March Meeting; Mid Wales Area Meeting will be discussing in April; Southern Marches Area Meeting have accepted the document and will return to it at their May meeting.

South Wales Area Meeting discussed the document on 13.2.2010 and sent their minute.

We ask the clerks to contact other Border area meetings to agree memoranda with them, to report by our October meeting.

2010.11 Contact List and Data Protection

- (i) **Data Protection.** Until we are registered with the Charity Commission separately, the Britain Yearly Meeting Data Protection Policy covers us and we certify compliance to the Recording Clerk's Office each year. The collection of information from members and attenders is undertaken by the area meetings concerned, but all those using personal information of members for the work of Meeting of Friends in Wales should be aware of the Britain Yearly Meeting policy which is available for download from www.quaker.org.uk or from the MFW administrator.
- (ii) **Contact List.** Mid Wales Area Meeting and South Wales Area Meeting have expressed a wish for a new all-Wales book of members. We agree to ask our administrator to look into the logistics for this, consulting with the relevant area meetings through their assistant clerks (membership) and Quaker Communications Department (minute 07.39 refers)

2010.12 Nominations and Appointments

- (i) **Between meetings appointments.** :The following appointments and releases were made between meetings:

Co-clerk until 31.12.2012 – Julia Aspden (NW)

Treasurer until 31.12.2012 – Lynn Moseley (SW)

Welsh Language Consultative Group until 31.12.2012 :
Huw Meredydd Owen (NW)

Trustee until 31.12.2012 – Frank Brown (NW)

Gethin Evans was appointed as trustee at our last meeting (minute 09.36(ii)) and we agree that he will serve until 31.12.2011

We ask Gethin to convene the first meeting of trustees; a clerk of trustees will be appointed at our next meeting.

Arrangements Committee until 31.12.2011 – Mary Cook (SW)

Outreach Resources Group until 31.12.2010:

Catherine James (NW)

Alan Thomas (SW) (Alan also attended the Big Outreach Conference on our behalf)

In taking up the role of treasurer, Lynn Moseley has asked to be released from service as assistant clerk.

- (ii) **Nominations brought forward at this meeting:**

Convenor of Arrangements Committee until 26.06.2010 – Liza Brown

Welsh Language Consultative Group until 31.12.2012:

Awel Jones (NW)

Rhian Parry (NW)

Trustee until 31.12.2010 Del Yale (NW)

The above names being acceptable, and the Friends willing to serve, they are appointed.

We agree, at her request, to release Mary Cook from service as assistant editor of Calon. We ask the current editor of Calon to discuss the need for the appointment of an assistant editor with Nominations Committee.

- (iii) **Central Nominations Committee.** Jane Harries, from South Wales Area Meeting who serves on Central Nominations Committee has expressed her concern about the paucity of Welsh Friends who have filled out a yellow service information form. These forms have been available for Friends today. We encourage Friends locally to fill them in, so that Central Nominations Committee has access to information about Welsh Friends who might serve on Britain Yearly Meeting Committees.

2010.13 Meeting for Sufferings

Neither of our representatives on Meeting for Sufferings has been able to be present today but we have received a written report. We have been reminded that we can be proactive in communicating with Meeting for Sufferings. We have been told about the plans for the next few Sufferings meetings so that we can ensure that we can communicate what Meeting of Friends in Wales is doing on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting in Wales at the appropriate time.

We have received some queries about Priority g from *A Framework for Action – Using our Resources Well* – from Meeting for Sufferings. We refer these queries to our trustees and ask them to forward a response to the queries on our behalf by 20th May.

2010.14 Cytûn

Catherine James has updated on the Cytûn meeting on 26th February. There is now an Enabling Group, to draw together the local groups of Cytûn. There had been much talk about unity – that we will do together those things we can do together, and only do separately those things which cannot be done together. The Cytûn Board Meeting was held during the afternoon, and Catherine told us about the Committee for International Work, which works in Syria and Lebanon, and is going out there again in April.

There is a Cytûn witness at the Urdd Eisteddfod, the Royal Welsh Show and the National Eisteddfod. We would like further help at the Urdd and the Royal Welsh.

A Declaration of Ecumenical Welcome and Commitment is being made in some churches, and we will have a chance to think about this at a later meeting.

2010.15 Children and Young People's Work Advocates' report

Kate Binney has given us a report on the work of the Advocates. Kate supports the Advocates in Wales and brings them together for mutual support. We encourage the Advocates in the work they are doing, and we thank Kate for speaking to her report.

2010.15 Becoming Friends

Lizz Roe has introduced us to *Becoming Friends*, a Quaker Life/Woodbrooke project aimed at helping those new to Quakerism to explore the many aspects of Quakerism, with the help of a companion/mentor.

Three aspects are covered:

- a) What is distinctive about Quakers?
- b) To help newcomers to discover more about the Quaker Journey, the Quaker Way, and
- c) How to deepen our spiritual journey.

There are eight topics in the learning pack, each with distinctive activities, and each covering the three aspects.

Every newcomer comes to Meeting with a different history. They are probably looking for companionship and help on their spiritual journey.

We practised the idea of being a companion with a version of the Boundaries Game, and we discussed the ideas arising from this.

Lizz is going to investigate translation of the learning pack into Welsh.

We can see that most of the support for this exciting scheme will happen in local meetings. Area meetings will support local meetings. But there might be a role for Meeting of Friends in Wales in supporting those who wish for a Welsh -speaking companion.

We encourage all Friends to spread the word about the learning package and the way in which we might support all Friends in Meetings to deepen and share their spiritual life.

We encourage local and area meetings to inform the clerks of MFW of Friends who are willing to act as companions.

Becoming Friends is available online or in printed form [from www.woodbrooke.org.uk] and training for companions is available at Woodbrooke and Swarthmoor Hall.

We thank Lizz for sharing this with us.

Deborah Rowlands
Julia Aspden Co-Clerks