



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 23 February 2013 at Aberystwyth

2013.01 Opening Worship and Welcome

Matthew chapter 5:3-10 has been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome **32** Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

North Wales: Rhian Parry

Mid Wales: Dave Butler

South Wales: Carolyn Sansom

Southern Marches: Peter Hussey

Gethin Evans and Lionel Curtis have been appointed to act as Elders.

2013.02 *Calon* and *The Friend*

Jules Montgomery has agreed to write a report on this meeting for *The Friend* and for *Calon*.

2013.03 Report: *Quaker Life Representative Council*

Liz Butler has reported on the Quaker Life Rep. Council held October 2012. The title for the weekend was **Deepening the Life of the Spirit through Service**.

Quaker service covers a wide range of activities, including greeting people, serving tea and coffee in our meetings, long-term service for Britain Yearly Meeting (including paid work) and work overseas.

One of the speakers spoke of her work with Friends World Committee. She quoted Roger Wilson's Swarthmore Lecture *Authority, Leadership and Concern* describing being a Good Samaritan and relief worker as "Simple human kindness, expressed at some personal cost." She said the simplicity of this phrase cuts away a lot of baggage.

In group discussions she noted the importance of suiting people to tasks and not asking more of people than they are capable of, and afterwards supporting them. Through serving we meet and hear of inspirational people whose stories remind that our own stories can be encouraging too.

Liz found the weekend was both challenging and inspirational, and we thank her for her report.

2013.04 CYTŪN: Report of the enabling group meeting held on February 14, 2013

Deborah Rowlands has reported on the February meeting and has updated us about ongoing issues. There were reports from four local CytŪn groups, each exhibiting very different traditions. We heard about progress towards becoming a Nation of Sanctuary. Friends would like more information as to what Sanctuary involves. There was discussion of ensuring the Welsh voice was heard in inter-church bodies, and there were questions about when is it appropriate to have

material translated, and when to take note of the wider dimension of Welshness which went beyond language.

There was support for a process of re-examining the issues set out in *Wales: a Moral Society*. Member churches will be invited to nominate members of the commission and the working groups and so we should prepare our nominations committee to consider suitable people. Deborah has agreed to write a report for Calon to enlarge on some of these issues. We thank Deborah for this.

2013.05 Christian Aid committee

Our Friend Lynn Moseley was a member of the Christian Aid Wales Committee on our behalf. This membership is anomalous in terms of what MFW does. We don't have a remit in relation to individual charities or agencies, for example, with the exception of CYTŪN. This matter would have been carried over until a focus group to help MFW decide where our energies should be focused was in place (Minute 2012.46) but we can't wait until then. Lynn Moseley has been released from this committee (Minute 2012.15) and we need now to determine whether or not we would like to put forward a name to serve on the committee.

We feel that service with Christian Aid Wales is better carried out at local meeting level, and we agree not to reappoint to this committee.

2013.06 Maps, posters etc. report

We have been trying to gain clarification from Friends House as to whether MFW has to carry the cost of creating posters for outreach which is specific to Wales and which has Wales-related imagery as well as Welsh language.

We need to update the map of LMs and AMs in Wales, for taking to events such as the Eisteddfod and for the website (to which BYM could link). We are waiting for a response from the Recording Clerk's office about possible technical help (and associated cost). Martin Morley has offered to look at this but he is not (as yet) expert at web-related maps and their links.

We have agreed to translate into Welsh *We Are But Witnesses* on equal marriage. This should be finished by the end of the month and when checked will go on the website. There are three leaflets which have been translated (two of them some time ago) but are held up for various reasons. We are now urgently working on these.

We have heard from Jane Dawson at Friends House that they would like to meet with representatives of MFW to discuss the creation of a distinctive Wales identity for publications. We agree that we should meet with Jane.

2013.07 Meeting for Sufferings

Dave Butler has reported on February meeting of Meeting for Sufferings held at Woodbrooke. The residential meeting provided the opportunity to get to know each other, and to discuss concerns.

The main agenda items were to discuss and clarify the roles of MfS. Four purposes were identified. **To be a worshipping community, To be a visioning body within the Yearly Meeting, Relationships and communication, and Ways of working.** We thank Dave for this report.

2013.08 Commemorating the First World War in Wales

Three meetings have been held, in Cardiff, Llandudno Junction and Builth Wells, arranged by CyMAL – Museums Archives and Libraries Wales and by the Heritage Lottery Fund Wales, to consider ways of commemorating the First World War in Wales.

David Lawrence attended the Cardiff meeting, Donald Saunders and Carol Pickering went to the

Llandudno Junction meeting, and John Senior and Lynda Williams Attended Builth Wells. We have received reports from the Llandudno Junction and Builth Well meetings and Donald Saunders has reported to us today.

There is a need to make our voices heard, and we look forward to working with others who have similar views to our own. Friends see the proposed Peace Academy for Wales as worth promoting, and we are reminded that the commemoration continues until 2019.

South Wales AM have already set up a group to consider Friends responses to the Commemoration, and we hope that other AMs will do likewise and report back to MFW so that a fuller picture will develop of what is happening and what may be possible within Wales.

2013.9 Our carbon footprint

Minute 36 of BYM in Canterbury in 2011 – We are called to live simply and equitably, sharing the earth's resources fairly now and in the future.

We need to assess our current way of living by measuring the fossil-fuelled energy needed to support our current consumption. If this is in excess of the world's capacity to absorb carbon-dioxide and other emissions that cause climate-change, then it is in some degree unjust. In order to take action, we need to establish the current level of BYM's consumption and consequent emissions.

Each LM has been asked to calculate average emissions, and report these to Friend's house.

Meeting of Friends in Wales also entails emissions. In order to estimate a typical year's MfW emissions, we need to gather data for a simplified assessment.

We therefore ask everyone travelling to MFW in June, October and next February for the requested information to collect this data.

2013.10 Maryse Newnham, ecumenical accompanier: 'Life in the Hebron Hills: an eye witness account.'

Maryse Newnham has spoken of her time as an Ecumenical Accompanier. We have heard and seen slides of many aspects of life in the Occupied Territory, and how the illegal settlements impact on the day-to-day lives of Palestinians on the West Bank.

Maryse has described 'principled impartiality' in the Ecumenical Accompaniers' work in this area where demolitions are frequent and where ideological and economic Israeli settlements have developed. We have learned of a spirit of peace-making at work in individuals and groups among the Arabs and Israelis. With those we have heard about, we look for peace with justice.

We have been reminded of things we can do and we have been challenged to begin to encourage the building of bridges between Welsh Quakers and this area. We hope that we can put this matter onto our agenda in October for further discussion.

2013.11 Update on *Celebrating the Quaker Way in Wales*

Report from the book group February 2013

Rhian Parry has reported on the progress of the Welsh and English books funded by the JRCTF. The group has received almost all the prose and poetry needed to complete; they have been touched by the honesty of those who provided text; the pieces are varied, thoughtful, humorous and challenging.

The group agreed that contributions would be anonymous with a list of names at the end of the book. The timetable for production is that the Quaker readers would finish their work by 23 February and that final drafts should be agreed by 30 April. It is hoped that the books will be ready to go to Y Lolfa for printing towards the end of October. We thank Rhian for this report and the book group for their considerable work.

2013.12 Financial and Trustees' matters

(i) Annual Report

Frank Brown has presented our Annual Report, which we have received. This will now be put on the website.

(ii) Accounts

Our treasurer has presented the accounts. We will ask for contributions from area meetings at the same rate as last year. The grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative support for this meeting is currently reviewed on an annual basis. We have received the grant this year, but we need to keep sufficient funds in our account to sustain the employment of our administrator, should the grant not be forthcoming next year.

Therefore we keep reserves in the account similar to the grant from Britain Yearly Meeting. At present the balance is around £13000 which is rather more than expected.

Our treasurer asks that she should be allowed to access the bank account online for checking bank balances. We agree to this request.

(iii) Signatories for cheques

Cheque signatories: we authorise any two of Ros Morley, Lynn Moseley and Christine Trevett to sign cheques on behalf of Meeting of Friends in Wales.

2013.13 Report: Outreach Conference

Rhian Parry has reported on the **Reaching in Reaching out** conference, held at High Leigh, 18–20 January 2013. Friends will remember that the 18–20 January was the weekend of the heavy snow falls. This gave Catherine James (attending on behalf of North Wales Area Meeting) and Rhian the challenge of reaching High Leigh. The conference attracted 120 delegates, only 20 of whom failed to arrive; an interesting illustration of Friends' determination and interest in outreach. The conference theme was about making meetings more welcoming to newcomers, exploring ways of doing things differently and listening more carefully to one another. We discussed what is it that nurtures our own meetings and keeps them alive and well.

The most important message for Rhian was the health of our meetings. This is something that needs constant nourishment and energy. Then we can 'do outreach,' almost without thinking about it as something added on and separate. We thank Rhian for this report.

2013.14 The National Eisteddfod

The Eisteddfod will be held in Denbigh from 3–10 August, and Rhian Parry has been appointed to co-ordinate our presence in the Cytûn tent. Rhian attended a planning meeting and told us that the plan at present is that each team will represent an area, not a denomination as in the past, as this encourages working together. There will again be a 'Quiet Corner' in the tent; it was much appreciated last year by visitors and volunteers and although it was not heavily used, it was considered to be a valuable asset.

The theme 'Walking' was suggested for the week. And there is to be a cross in the tent which will be constructed of empty cardboard boxes, into which one might put a written message or prayer.

We thank Rhian for this report.

2013.15 Report: *Living the Quaker Way*, November 2012

Del Yale attended the Woodbrooke-on-the-road Conference in November 2012. Friends attended from many parts of Wales. Tim Peate Ashworth spoke about the early Quakers, and small groups then discussed how their practices led to the way we worship today. Both have roots in the life of Jesus and the early church. We thank Del for her report.

2013. 16 Nominations and appointments

Between meetings appointments

- (i) Frances Voelcker has agreed to be reappointed to Arrangements Committee, to December 2015
- (ii) Nominations group brought the name of Peter Davies (SWAM) to serve as Trustee until December 2015
- (iii) NWAM brought the name of Rhian Parry to act as our representative for planning and co-ordinating our presence in the 2013 Eisteddfod at Denbigh.
- (iv) A Minute from October 2012 Meeting for Sufferings records that Ann Boot of Penarth Meeting, our nominee for membership of The Retreat (York) General Meeting, has been reappointed until December 2015

Nominations received

- (v) The Friends seeking a nominee to Nominations group has brought forward the name of Peter Hussey (SM), to serve to December 2015
- (vi) As requested, Nominations have sought names for a focus group of four Friends, including one young Friend, to help our thinking on Wales-related matters. Thus far Gethin Evans, Deborah Rowlands (corresponding member), David Harries.
- (vii) Trustees have brought forward the name of Frank Brown to act as clerk for the group. These names being agreeable to Friends they were appointed.

Nominations sought :

- 1 Trustee
- 1 member of Publications Committee
- 2 Friends (including one in the young-er age group) for Wales focus group
- A Friend to attend the Wales Peace Academy conference for MFW, March 23rd Aberystwyth
- A Friend to attend the United Reformed Church Synod Meeting in Newtown on Saturday 2 March
- A Friend to report impressions from Yearly Meeting and a 1st timer at Yearly Meeting

Signed:

Christine Trevett, Co-clerk