



Minutes of the Meeting held at Lampeter February 25th 2017

2017.01 Opening worship and welcome.

In our opening worship a passage was read in English and Welsh from *Towards the Source* and *Tua'r Tarddiad*.

We have welcomed 35 Friends today according to the attendance sheet.

The following Friends were appointed by their Area Meetings to attend:

North Wales: Catherine James, Rosemary Dixon-Nuttall, Judith Hedges,
David Mellor (reporting)

Mid Wales: Helen Porter

Southern Marches: Stevie Krayner

South Wales: No Friend had been appointed but Carolyn Sansom will report.

Our elder today is Theresa Haine of Lampeter Meeting

Our translator today is Steffan Wiliam

2017.02 The reports on this meeting for Calon and The Friend will be written by Pauline Brind.

2017.03 Report on QCCIR

We have received a report by Gethin Evans on the work of QCCIR, Quaker Committee on Christian and Interfaith Relations. Recent changes of focus in the work of QCCIR have resulted in a sharpening of its endeavours. A project with Woodbrooke entitled 'The Changing Face of Faith in Britain' aims to identify what impact this is having on the 'Society of Friends' and should be of interest to us in Wales.

A recent response by the committee to a World Council of Churches paper entitled "A Spirit led Church" is a valuable document for study by local meetings interested in increasing awareness of the basis of our spiritual disciplines. Copies of this document may be obtained from Friends House. Other subjects to be addressed will be end of life issues and the theology of sustainability. We thank Gethin Evans for his report

2017.04 Work in Wales: Peaceful Schools and beyond

We are heartened to hear how Quakers in Wales have been promoting peace education in schools and in the community. Helen Porter of Mid Wales Area Meeting has spoken about the Peaceful Schools project it initiated, to give to children in primary schools skills and techniques to be at peace with themselves and others. The response to this has been excellent feedback and increasing requests from schools for programmes in English and in Welsh. Helen hopes that this initiative can be expanded country-wide.

Alan Armstrong our *Cymru'n Cofio* representative sent a written report on the *Belief and Action* exhibition which is now launched and is available to use. We encourage Meetings to organise a showing of it in their own localities. To host the exhibition in your community or to

add to the stories collected by the *Wales for Peace* project contact Ffion Fielding, Exhibitions and Engagement Coordinator,

Wales for Peace, Welsh Centre for International Affairs,
Temple of Peace, Cathays Park, Cardiff, CF10 3AP.

Tel 029 2082 1051 Email ffionfielding@wcia.org.uk 

The Wales for Peace web-site is <http://www.walesforpeace.org>.

Jane Harries then expanded on this report in relation to the work the *Wales for Peace* project is doing, which includes work with schools. At the heart of this project is the question of how Wales has contributed to peace in the last hundred years and how we build a new generation of peace-makers. We thank all three Friends for their input today.

2017.05 Cytûn Report

We have received a report from Deborah Rowlands on the recent meeting of the board and enabling group of Cytûn at Shrewsbury this month.

We note that it is probable that an ecumenical service to mark the 500th anniversary of the Reformation will be held at St David's Roman Catholic Cathedral in Cardiff on 31 October. We welcome this historic and significant development and hope to be represented on that occasion. We thank Deborah Rowlands for her report.

2017.06 Outreach Matters

(i) Jeff Beatty is co-ordinator for Friends' presence at *The Royal Welsh Show*, Llanellwedd, 24th-27th July 2017.

(ii) The National Eisteddfod 2017 will be on Anglesey on the 4th-12th of August this year and Gwyneth Hewitson will be the co-ordinator for Friends' presence there. Meetings will receive requests for volunteers in due course.

(iii) Eisteddfod Lecture

We have received an update on arrangements for the second of a series of lectures on Quaker themes at the National Eisteddfod at Bodedern on Wednesday August 9 2017. The lecture will be given by Huw Meredydd Owen of Pwllheli Local Meeting, who is an architect by profession. The lecture will be entitled 'The Moment and the Hole in the Roof' (in Welsh 'Yr Eiliad a'r twll yn y tô). These are references to Waldo Williams' poem 'Yr Eiliad' (The Moment) and the design of the new roof to 'The Light', the large Meeting House at Friends House. Huw will examine the Quaker testimony to Simplicity and the search for direct spiritual experience in the light of his own experience of the creative process. We look forward to this event and to later dissemination of the text of Huw's lecture and and note plans to publicise the event beforehand. Simultaneous translation will be provided.

Gethin Evans will be presenting an English version of his 2016 lecture at Yearly Meeting Gathering in Warwick University. This will be an opportunity for Friends from other parts to become acquainted with Meeting of Friends in Wales.

(iv) Hay Book Festival

The clerk has heard from *Quaker Life* that there will be a Quaker exhibition space at the Hay festival this year (25th May to 4th June) and also a staged event involving three Quaker writers, perhaps on May 28th. We welcome this news. It will be organised by *Quaker Life* and MFW will

support it with bi-lingual printed resources to supplement what *Quaker Life* is providing; in ensuring that it's known about among Friends in Wales; and in gathering volunteers from Wales to serve in 'shifts' in the exhibition booth for the ten days of the festival. SMAM is well placed to gain volunteers from the English side of the border and its clerk Jeff Beatty is also in contact with Gill Sewell of *Quaker Life*. We ask Nominations to find a Friend urgently, to act as MFW co-ordinator in gathering volunteers *from Wales*, their contact details and date(s) (and a.m./p.m.) when they would be able to volunteer (Meetings will be circulated from MFW with the request for these), then forwarding a list of such Friends to Jeff Beatty.

2017.07 Minute from Southern Marches Area Meeting

In response to the following Minute received from SMAM we shall ask CYTŪN to consider ways of opening the doors to other faiths in the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff in 2018. We ask the clerk to forward a request to Aled Edwards, CEO of CYTŪN, who is himself closely involved with inter-faith activity, copying to Ynyr Roberts and to Deborah Rowlands, the Friend on its board. We are confident that such a request will get prayerful and thoughtful discernment.

Minute from Southern Marches Area Meeting

AM17/17 Faith Presence at Festivals

Our clerk has received a minute 16/42 from Abergavenny Meeting on multi-faith presence in the CytŪn Tent at the Eisteddfod and similar meetings and our Friend Hilary Beynon has spoken to it.

Friends have also addressed their experiences at the Eisteddfod last year and described their positive experiences and outreach opportunities, but also about the lack of opportunity for inclusion of other faiths in the CytŪn (Churches Together in Wales) tent.

We ask our clerk to send this minute to the clerk of Meeting of Friends in Wales, which is forwarded in love and friendship.

2017.08 Report on Resources

Ros Morley has provided a report which signals that meetings wanting copies of *Ein ffydd yn y dyfodol* ('Our faith in the future' translated) should contact our administrator and Ros Morley has told the clerk she is confident a second MFW banner will have been produced by the time of the Hay festival.

2017.09 The clerk's report on Meeting of Clerks

The clerk of MFW met with the Recording Clerk and clerks of General Meeting for Scotland and of Meeting for Sufferings on November 30th 2016 in Cardiff. We have heard of the possible creation of a Memorandum of Understanding between BYM, GMS and MFW which would include reference to the status of the Welsh language within BYM. We would welcome the introduction of an annual report being made to Meeting for Sufferings on the work of MFW and ask our clerk to write to the recording Clerk and the Clerk of Meeting for Sufferings to express that.

2017.10 Libraries Project

Quaker libraries at Friends' House and Woodbrooke are important archive resources for the Religious Society of Friends and provide information to help us in Quaker work and in learning. We encourage Friends to respond to their request for input to the Joint Libraries Development Project, before the imminent deadline (end of February) and to share this information with their meetings. The project aims to make material accessible to Friends through digitisation from both library collections. Complete the online survey at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/JLDP1>

2017.11 Trustees and Monetary matters.

Frank Brown, convener of Trustees, has spoken of the Annual Report which the Trustees have accepted. The Trustees will report to the Charity Commissioners as required. In due course the Annual Report and MFW Accounts will be viewable on the website.

Our Treasurer Martin Hughes has reported that subject to the independent examiner adding his certification the accounts are approved. MFW has had an increase in its annual grant from £6,831 to £11,173 to cover increased administration and translation costs. Trustees have agreed an increase in the administrator's hours to 12 hours a week as from January 1st 2017. We record our thanks to our Friend D. Bryn Jones for his much valued service of translation to this meeting in recent years. We record our thanks also to those Friends who are able to offer service to the Meeting without need of claiming expenses.

2017.12 Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (QCAT) Our speaker Jane Laxton, has led us in a thought provoking exploration of this topic and we thank her for joining us today.

2017.13 Update on the website

We have heard from our administrator Jules Montgomery about the work of the website group. It recommends a website more completely bi-lingual, welcoming, simple and taking more account of the spiritual. As from March 2017 and as part of a number of planned changes the hosting of the Meeting of Friends in Wales website will have been transferred. We thank Matt Watson for his work and technical support to MFW and its administrator over several years.

2017.14 Minutes between Meetings

(i) The clerk of MFW attended the launch of the *Belief and Action/Cred a Gweithred* exhibition in Pontypridd on its behalf, on Saturday November 5th. This explores 'the themes of recruitment and conscientious objection to the First World War, and the beliefs that led some to question war and work for peace in the century since'. A number of other Friends were also present.

(ii) On December 8th in Penarth the clerk of MFW attended the Thanksgiving gathering for the life of the Rev'd. Gethin Abraham Williams, formerly CEO of CYTŪN.

(iii) As determined in Minute 2016.29 Catherine James, Christine Trevett and in addition Lynn Moseley have visited local meetings to speak of the work of Meeting of Friends in Wales. Fourteen LMs have been visited.

(iv) The independent examiner of accounts for Meeting of Friends in Wales is now R.Paul Bradshaw.

2017 15 Nominations and Appointments

(i) Between meetings:

- The following names were received from Area Meetings to co-ordinate Friends' presence at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanellwedd, 2017 and the Royal Eisteddfod in Bodedern, Anglesey in 2017: from NWAM Gwyneth Hewitson for the National Eisteddfod and from SMAM Jeff Beatty for the Royal Welsh Show.
- In respect of Minute 2016.39 (subgroup to create sample pages for a website design) the following Friends agreed to undertake the task: Alma Whitten, Rhian Parry. *A third Friend is still sought for this group.* Jules Montgomery is a corresponding member.
- Helen Lewis of Porthmadog LM was appointed to be the North Wales member on MFW's Wales Focus Group, to serve from 01.01.2017 to 31.12.2019.

(ii) Nominations brought forward

- To be assistant clerk of MFW, serving from March 1st 2017 to 31.12.2018
Catherine James (Porthmadog LM).
- To attend the URC regional Synod as Friends' ecumenical representative, March 25th at Rhos on Sea: Efa Wulle (Colwyn Bay LM).
- To attend the URC regional Synod as Friends' ecumenical representative, March 11th at Heol y Waun, Penrhys: Christine Trevett (Bridgend LM).
The names being acceptable, these three Friends were appointed.

(iii) Nominations sought

A co-clerk to serve immediately and to 31.12.2019

An Arrangements Committee member (preferably from SMAM) to serve immediately and to 31.12.2019

A Website Subgroup member for a short task and finish period

A Trustee for MFW to serve immediately and to 31.12.2019

A Friend to act as co-ordinator receiving names of volunteers for a Quaker presence at the Hay Festival 2017.

A Friend (with a knowledge of Welsh) to attend the welcome tea of the Union of Welsh Independents/Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg annual meetings, to be held in Ammanford/Rhydaman, on Thursday 15th June.

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Lynn Moseley (acting asst. clerk)

