



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 22 October 2011 at Llanidloes

2011.33 Opening Worship and Welcome

Quaker Faith and Practice 23.11 has been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome 28 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. We also welcome Karen Richter. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

North Wales: Gerald Craddock
Mid Wales: Gethin Evans
Southern Marches: David Binney, Kate Binney

Lynn Moseley has agreed to give a report to South Wales Area Meeting.

Dave Butler and Gwen Prince have been appointed to act as Elders for this meeting.

2011.34 *Calon and The Friend*

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

2011.35 'Friends under Occupation – Stories from Palestine'

Helen Lewis and John Butler have visited Palestine a number of times. The latest visit in September was with an ecumenical group. Through images we have been shown the contrast of a peaceful Quaker Meeting House, the aggression of armed settlers, and the exclusion Palestinians suffer in their own country.

We have heard of the harassment by both the Israeli army and the Israeli settlers, and the way the Palestinian agricultural economy is being destroyed. We also heard of Israeli groups working to assist the Palestinians in preserving their rights.

There is insecurity on both sides – the Israelis feel threatened themselves; and the Palestinians never know when their houses may be demolished, or where the next threat will come from. International observers are very helpful in protecting Palestinians; and twinning arrangements have proved to be effective in averting harassment.

We need to remember that the Palestinians are resilient, are still full of hope, and many are working towards a secular Palestinian state.

We thank Helen and John for their graphic account.

2011.36 Yearly Meeting Gathering

Pam and Martin Willson have sent us a report on Yearly Meeting Gathering, held in Canterbury 30th July to 6th August, which has been read to us. We thank them for their report.

2011. 37 Meeting for Sufferings

Dave Butler has reported on Meeting for Sufferings held on 1st October, and Stevie Kraye has provided a written report. Meeting for Sufferings had heard about the Fairness Commission set up by Islington Council; meetings in Wales may want to encourage their local councils to undertake similar audits of the impact that the cuts will have on equality. The Parliamentary Liaison Officer had also stressed the effect that the welfare cuts will have. The minute (2011. 19) from our last meeting was received by Meeting for Sufferings. A briefing is to be produced from Friends House on the cuts and how we can respond.

The United Kingdom has submitted a resolution to the United Nations for a truce during the Olympics. Friends may wish to write to the government or their MPs welcoming this and suggesting that the UK engage with it.

2011. 38 Boundary of Mid Wales Area Meeting

We have received a letter from the clerk of trustees of Mid Wales Area Meeting asking whether Meeting of Friends in Wales has any comments to make on the changes to the boundaries of area meetings. We hope that the present arrangements will continue.

2011.39 Appeal Group

The appeal group appointed by minute 2011.13 have reported that they uphold the appeal. We lay down the group with our thanks for their work.

2011.40 Cytûn and the Royal Welsh Show

Catherine James has reported on the six years she has spent appointed to the board of Cytûn. She has enjoyed being part of the development of the new body, has met some very interesting, committed people, and has gained some understanding of the workings of other churches.

Catherine emphasised that the churches' message, which includes the Quaker message, is important in the world of Wales. Because we have one member, like all the other churches, on the board, and because we pay our dues to Cytûn in good time and in full, we have a strong voice in Cytûn, as strong as any of the larger churches. Cytûn has influence with the Welsh Assembly Government. This means that concerns which are taken through area meetings to Meeting of Friends in Wales, and so to the Cytûn Board, may have some effect on government policy.

The visible work of Cytûn is at national events, particularly the Royal Welsh Show, the National Eisteddfod and the Urdd Eisteddfod. Cytûn also works with other groups, e.g. educational. There is now a chaplains' team, originally only in place for the Royal Welsh Show, but now working at other events on the showground. The work the team does is clearly important, and goes on beyond the time of the shows and throughout Wales.

The Christian Centre, which has worked at the show ground for some considerable years, has been offered both a piece of ground and the money to build a permanent centre on the show ground, which would be of great use to the team of chaplains who presently work there. In order to get the agreement of the Royal Welsh Show to proceed with this development, the support in principle of all the churches who are members of Cytûn is needed. We agree to support this development in principle, although we would prefer the project to be multi-faith.

Cytûn has problems over finance, in that it is trying to find a more equitable way of being financed by the member churches, but some churches with their own financial problems are finding it difficult to agree the new formula. The staff of Cytûn is already very small, but some of these staff members may lose their jobs if the finance cannot be solved.

2011.41 National Eisteddfod

Maria Haines has sent us a report, which has been read to us. Maria expressed a number of reservations about the effectiveness of our presence in the Cytûn tent.

Christine Trevett has added her observations, that Cytûn does two things in a busy, hectic space: (i) it keeps the fact of worship in the public eye by having a daily service, and (ii) it keeps the fact of Christian hospitality in the public eye.

Working ecumenically means that we learn from other churches, and they learn from us.

There is a lot of interest in the questions raised in Maria's report, and we agree to discuss this matter in more detail at our October meeting next year.

We hope that our representative on the Cytûn Board could suggest that Cytûn might negotiate a place away from a performance stage, so that the daily service and the quiet corner are held more peacefully. We hope that the quiet space will be more visible and more effective next year.

2011.42 Welsh Advisory Committee of Christian Aid

Lynn Moseley attended a committee meeting at Radyr on 6th October and has reported to us. At every meeting the representatives are asked to share news of what they are doing for Christian Aid. Some representatives report on participating in drives to collect money for Christian Aid. Our witness is mainly peace and reconciliation. Lynn asked - should we be working with Christian Aid? We need to support the work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness and it would be difficult to support Christian Aid financially. We will discuss this again at our next meeting.

2011.43 Celebrating the Quaker Way in Wales (minutes 2011.05 and 2011.30 refer)

The Project Group met on 18th October, and Catherine James has reported to us that Meeting of Friends in Wales has received a grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust of £30,863 to support our work of developing Quakerism through the Welsh language. As planned, this will be used to produce a DVD and a book of writings by Friends in Wales. Both projects will provide suitable material for uploading to the website.

Work on the DVD is well advanced and we hope the finished DVD will be available in the spring. The Paths of the Spirit and Living what we Believe are examples of what will be covered. Welsh speaking Quakers are still needed to broaden the views represented.

The book group will be working through 2012, offering writing workshops and collecting writing from individuals. The image of a river beginning as a stream in the mountains and flowing down to the sea will be used. It will show the spiritual journey of living what we believe.

The work is expected to be completed by July 2014, and we agree to alter the terms of reference for those involved in the project in that appointments will be altered to run to the end of 2014.

2011.44 Trustees' matters

Our treasurer, Lynn Moseley, has presented us with a budget for 2012. We will ask for contributions from area meetings at the same rate as 2011. The grant from Britain Yearly Meeting towards administrative support for Friends in Wales has been renewed for next year at the same rate as last year, but it is reviewed on an annual basis; we therefore need to keep sufficient funds in the account to sustain the employment of our administrator in the event of the grant not being

renewed, until other arrangements could be made. The grant has made no increase to accord with inflation; our trustees have agreed in principle that our administrator should be offered the same percentage increase which would be offered to the staff at Friends House.

2011. 45 Arrangements

Our Arrangements Committee brings the following suggestions for dates and venues in 2012:

25 February – Glantwymyn (Cemmaes Road)

23 June – Meifod

27 October – Canolfan Steffan (Lampeter)

Laminated 'Q' signs have been acquired to assist in showing the way to Meeting of Friends in Wales meetings.

2011.46 Nominations and Appointments

- (i) Maryse Newnham has been nominated by the between meetings procedure to the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations, and has since been appointed by Meeting for Sufferings until 30.4.2012.
- (ii) Our Nominations Committee bring forward the following names:

Co-clerk (to end 2013) – Christine Trevett

Trustee (to end 2012) – Gethin Evans

Editor of Calon (to end 2014) – Stevie Kraye

Member of Publications Committee (to end 2014) – Ros Morley

Member of Arrangements Committee (to end 2014) – Christine Lewis (subject to consent)

These names being acceptable, the Friends named are appointed.

- (iii) We agree to appoint Carolyn Sansom to our Nominations Committee until end 2014.
- (iv) Trustees have brought forward the name of Gethin Evans as clerk of trustees for 2012. This name being acceptable, Gethin is appointed.
- (v) Nominations requested

Cytûn International Affairs Committee (to end 2013)

Meeting for Sufferings representative and alternate (from Yearly Meeting 2012 to Yearly Meeting 2015)

Representative to **United Reformed Church National Synod**, Hope Community Church, Newtown, 12th November.

Julia Aspden
Clerk