



## Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 26 October 2013 at Brecon

### **2013.37** Opening Worship and Welcome

Mark 4:26-30 has been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome **35** Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. The following Friends have been appointed by their area meetings to attend:

North Wales: Frances Voelcker, Angela Burton and Frank Brown

Mid Wales: David Utting, Les Jones, Veronica Grant and Gwen Prince

South Wales: Maureen Hughes

Southern Marches: Gill Branch, Hilary Beynon and Morag Sinton

Catherine James and Christine Lewis are our Elders for today.

### **2013.38** *Calon* and *The Friend*

Hilary Beynon, Gill Branch and Morag Sinton have agreed to write a report on this meeting for *The Friend* and for *Calon*.

### **2013.39** Report: Meeting for Sufferings 5 October 2013

The three main items at this meeting were the boycott of Israeli Settlement goods, welfare benefit cuts, and fossil fuel extraction, all items which had been visited before. We also heard of an item (which can be seen on the BYM website) showing the apportionment of the government welfare budget spent on various categories, which shows the very small amount that goes to the unemployed. We thank David Butler for his report.

### **2013.40** Juliet Prager: the work of the Deputy Recording Clerk

Juliet Prager, Deputy Recording Clerk, has told us of her coming to work with Friends. She services and supports Meeting for Sufferings (called "the visionary and prophetic body for the Yearly Meeting") and she has a line manager role in relation to other departments. Another part of her work concerns "connectivity" or "joining the dots" between Quakers and Quaker concerns in many ways. 'Friends House is for all of us' she reminds us, and its staff comes from all over Britain. We thank Juliet for this inspiring contribution to our day.

### **2013.41** CYTŪN report

Cathrin Daniel of Christian Aid, a body in association with Cytûn, has contacted our clerks to discuss relations between Meeting of Friends in Wales and the Welsh Committee of Christian Aid. Christine Trevett will be meeting Catherine Daniel shortly and we hope that our clerk will reiterate our original view in Minute 2013.05 while expressing our support for Christian Aid's work.

### **2013.42** *Towards the Source/Tua'r Tarddiad*

Rhian Parry has reported to us on the progress of these books. This is the second part of the whole project – the DVD was produced last year. We heard from Catherine James of positive comments from schools that the DVD provided Welsh educational materials on the web. We have been very grateful for the funding from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust, and we are also grateful to all those who have been so generous in donating their time. The two books will be available early in 2014.

### **2013.43** Reports for The Royal Welsh Show and The National Eisteddfod, 2013

John and Bridget Senior have reported on their four days as part of the Cytûn marquee at the Royal Welsh Show and the planning day in May.

They enjoyed a stimulating discussion with the Christian Aid 'What IF?' theme on how Wales and its churches might respond to the global food systems' challenges. There was also a daily Meeting for Worship in the Quiet Corner – a small group at one of these meetings were inspired by a reading from Qf&p 27.01: by William Penn.

Their proposal to set up a 'Wool against Weapons' knitting table in the marquee was met with consternation, so this was changed to knitting blanket squares which was very popular during the show – visitors learned to know, chatted in Welsh and English and at the end of the show the knitting was passed on to the Eisteddfod Cytûn marquee.

We thank John and Bridget for this report.

Rhian has reported on the daily Quaker presence at the Cytûn (Churches Together) tent at Denbigh. The preparation meetings at the beginning of the year enabled Friends to be considered full team members of the Cytûn volunteers and this simplified the setting up of the tent and Y Gornel Dawel (The Quiet Corner).

Local Friends filled our daily rota and shared the duties of welcoming callers, engaging with others and contributed to our presence. A few visitors made use of our Quiet Corner and it is well-worth nurturing and developing. It has become a welcomed part of the Cytûn tent.

We returned this year in leading a short ten minute Meeting for Worship leading on from the morning service (The morning service is led by a different denomination each day). Friends explained how we use the silence to worship and they read from *Quaker Faith and Practice*. The sections chosen related to peace and reconciliation, linking with the presentation on the work of the Ecumenical Accompaniers in Palestine, given by Jane Harries, and the Hiroshima memorial event. The group felt they had made some ground and welcomed the opportunity to be witnesses in mainstream activities.

### **2013.44** Quakers in Wales and Israel/Palestine

Further to Minutes 2013.10 and 2013.30 we have returned to examine further this subject and how we should proceed. We feel that we need to build bridges with Israelis who support this work as well as with Palestinian communities.

We will approach local meetings, asking them to let us know what involvements Friends in their meetings have with work in Israel/Palestine. We agree to approach Friends House to explore what Britain Yearly Meeting is doing, and the possibility of having a speaker in the future. We will review this subject at our February meeting.

### **2013.45** Gethin Evans "The Quakers and Wales - '... eira yng nghysgod clawdd' (snow in the shadow of the wall)."

Is Meeting of Friends in Wales an English experience? Gethin has given us a stimulating talk on the Welshness of Quakers in Wales suggesting that, in general, Quakers in Wales never acquired a Welsh character.

We heard of the growth and decline of Quakers – in North Wales Quakers almost disappeared. In general Quakerism survived only in English speaking areas at a time when 80 percent of the population was monoglot Welsh.

This history is both a light and a challenge to us as Quakers today. We need to make ourselves known.

### **2013.46** Financial and Trustees' matters

Frank Brown has spoken to us of the terms of financial transactions with the Digital Voices Project. Trustees also discussed in their meeting the financial situation of Meeting of Friends in Wales in general, as MFW has made large donations to the Digital Voices Project and the *Towards the Source/Tua'r Tarddiad* books. Has the time come to ask area meetings to increase the sum requested from their budgets. We suggest that during 2014 we aim for a break even budget.

### **2013.47** Digital Voices Project

We have heard from the Treasurer of our financial support for the Digital Voices Project (as per Minute 2013.33). We welcome Natasha James of the Digital Voices Project to update us on progress. Natasha has spoken of their financial affairs and has also explained to us how the project is advancing, in particular with the recordings and how they are ensuring that this is fully suitable as a bilingual educational asset.

Natasha is still looking for material on conscientious objection/WWI Welsh material, in particular about Morgan Jones.

The outcome of these stories is to go into all schools within Wales, with teachers' notes. We discussed the possibility of acquiring a response from schools. We thank Natasha for coming to give us this report.

### **2013.48** *Living the Quaker Way* (Bangor – 20 July 2013)

We heard a brief report: 27 Friends attended this meeting with Beth Allen. We thank Nigel Lemon for reporting to us.

### **2013.49** Review of *Living the Quaker Way* plus 2014 arrangements:

We are almost at the end of the 3-year Woodbrooke/MFW link *Living the Quaker Way*. We've had positive feedback from everyone involved in these events.

Next year however we're planning something different. We've invited the Kindlers to present two workshops – one in the Ganllwyd Village Hall near Dolgellau (Saturday June 21<sup>st</sup>) for Friends from North Wales and Mid Wales AMs, and one in Llandrindod FMH (Saturday April 5<sup>th</sup>) for Friends from South Wales and Southern Marches.

Then in the second half of 2014 (July to November) there are to be two meetings in Wales (which MFW has agreed to set up) as part of the move to build links between AMs and Sufferings throughout BYM. They're aimed at anyone who wants to understand how Quakerism works. Again one will be in North Wales serving NWAM and MWAM, one in South

Wales, serving SMAM and SWAM. We haven't as yet been able to fix dates.

### **2013.50** Website changes

Jules Montgomery and Matt Watson are working together to build a new website for Meeting of Friends in Wales. Matt is teaching Jules how the new site works and how to upload and manage content. The creation and building of this website will allow switching from Welsh to English and vice versa. We need to decide whether we want to be able to collect data, in which case we will need to accept cookies. We thank Jules for this report.

## **2013.51** Minute concerning a Project Group

Further to minute **2013.28** we agree to return to this matter at our February meeting, as there has not been time to discuss this.

## **2013.52** Caerleon Local Meeting

This local meeting is now known as Caerleon, Newport Quaker Meeting/Cyfarfod y Crynwyr Caerllion, Casnewydd.

## **2013.53** Recruitment below the age of eighteen

The clerks have been invited to sign a letter concerning ceasing recruitment below the age of eighteen to be published in the Sunday Telegraph on Remembrance Sunday. We agree to this.

## **2013.54** Nominations

**Committee laid down:** The CYTŪN committee for International Affairs has been laid down by CYTŪN. We do not seek an appointee to this committee for the next triennium.

### **Nominations received**

- (i) For the post of Trustee of MFW with extended service, from 26.10.2013 – 31.12.2016, David Utting
- (ii) For the post of Trustee of MFW, from 01.01.2014 – 31.12.2016, Dorothy Bell.
- (iii) To serve on Nominations Committee the subgroup for nominations has brought forward the names of Martin Hughes (NWAM) and Hilary Beynon (SMAM), both to serve from 01.01.2014 – 31.12.2016.
- (iv) To serve on Arrangements group until 01.01.2014 – 31.12.2016, Peter Hussey.
- (v) To serve as Archivist to 01.01.2014 – 31.12.2016, Jane Brunning.

These names being agreeable to Friends they are appointed.

**Between meetings appointment:** Our Nominations Committee brought forward the name of Bryan Scrivener to attend the United Reform Church National Synod as our representative, in Newtown, on 19 October 2013.

**Nominations are sought for the next triennium** For a co-clerk to 31.12.2016 or assistant clerk to 31.12.2014

**Appointment sought:** From South Wales Area Meeting, a Friend to represent Quakers at the planning meetings and in organisation for the National Eisteddfod 1–9 August 2014, in Llanelli.

Co-Clerks

Christine Trevett and Ros Morley