



## Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at The Pales

### 2016.17      **Opening worship and welcome**

We have welcomed 37 Friends to this Meeting, as listed on the attendance sheet. Portions of Surah 4 of the Qur'an have been read in Welsh and English in our opening worship.

D.Bryn Jones provides simultaneous translation today.

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

- North Wales: Frank Brown (reporting), Angela Arnold, David Mellor, Rosemary Dixon Nuttall and Catherine James.
- Mid Wales: Angela Ormrod
- Southern Marches: Jeff Beatty
- South Wales: Jane Harries will report as Joyce Gooding the appointee was prevented.

Our elders today are: Chris Robertson and John Senior.

### 2016.18      ***Calon and The Friend***

Jeff Beatty has agreed to write about this Meeting for both *Calon* and *The Friend*.

### 2016.19      **Report on work with Children and Young People**

Chris Holmquist has provided a written report in which he outlines the responsibilities, structures and resources in respect of work with our young people. We thank Chris for his input and reminders.

### 2016.20      ***Quaker Life* conference on death and dying**

Angela Ormrod has reported on this conference which was oversubscribed.

*"The views of Quakers, and society as a whole, vary on a number of end of life topics including: medically assisted dying, suicide, what happens after death. We welcome the work of Friends already engaged with these questions; they are subjects we could all well explore."*

We heard of the challenging questions which the topic and the conference raised. We have tended to push the subject of death and dying into the background. The BYM leaflet *Love and Loss* is recommended to Meetings. Are our Meetings providing an open and supportive atmosphere in which to speak of our experiences, hopes and fears? We thank Angela for her report.

### 2016.21      ***Cymru'n Cofio/Wales Remembers***

Meetings have been circulated already with elements of the report from Alan Armstrong on the April *Cymru'n Cofio* meeting. We note the preparations for the launch of the promised Faith in Action exhibition (Minute 2015.42) commemorating conscientious objection and publicising peace work in Wales. This will be at the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny in August. We repeat in this Minute the invitation previously made to Friends and Meetings to offer to host the exhibition after its launch. We welcome the fact, noted in Alan's report, that the *Wales for*

*Peace* project will include the creation of a digital record of all COs in Wales. Jane Harries has told us that the Peace Tent at the eisteddfod will be the venue for the Faith in Action exhibition launch, involving a small exhibition of peace panels. It is hoped that current peace activism in Wales can be represented too.

## **2016.22 Friends (a) at the Royal Welsh Show and (b) at the National Eisteddfod**

(a) The Royal Welsh Show: Jeff Beatty is co-ordinating Friends' presence at the Royal Welsh Show at Llanellwedd on the 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> of July this year. Some volunteers have been gathered, to work with other denominations in the Churches Together tent but more are needed. Meetings will be circulated with a request for further volunteers. Jeff Beatty, Southern Marches Area Meeting clerk, may also be contacted directly with offers to help.

(b) Hilary Beynon and Stevie Krayer are co-ordinating Friends' presence at the National Eisteddfod in Abergavenny, July 29<sup>th</sup> to August 6<sup>th</sup>. As well as being a volunteer presence in the Churches Together tent and having oversight of its Quiet Corner a number of other activities have been planned by Quakers. These include a walk to Hedd Wen meeting space and peace garden. Further volunteers are needed for our presence at the eisteddfod and Friends are invited to contact Stevie Krayer or Hilary Beynon of Abergavenny Meeting.

First eisteddfod lecture: In addition, at the eisteddfod there will be the first of the series of lectures planned in Meeting of Friends in Wales. This will be at 11.30 on Tuesday August 2<sup>nd</sup>, in Pabell y Cymdeithasau II (Societies Tent II). Gethin Evans will speak on the publisher and Quaker John Edward Southall, with simultaneous translation provided by Bryn Jones. We urge Friends to support this new venture by publicising it and ask that they uphold our lecturer, by coming to the eisteddfod. During the eisteddfod week the Faith in Action exhibition will be launched in the Peace Tent and *Wales for Peace/Cymru Dros Heddwch* and the Wales Peace Institute will be holding events. MFW will circulate all meetings with details of eisteddfod events of relevance for us.

## **2016.23 Yearly Meeting 2016**

Catherine James has reported on Yearly Meeting. She was heartened by the Yearly Meeting's attention to being Spirit-led, to the testing of a sense of concern and to supporting those who then carry out the work. There were inspiring stories, including the work in schools on the reality of war, initiated by Mid Wales Area Meeting. Are some Friends less clear than in the past about what the Quaker understanding of Concern implies? Are Friends here in Wales benefiting from the clarity and support testing can bring? Meeting of Friends in Wales is itself one possible forum in the testing process, just as it is for communication with Meeting for Sufferings.

## **2016.24 Report from CYTŪN**

The report by Deborah Rowlands reminds us of Cytûn's breadth of ecumenical engagement. This includes with Christian communities whose members are among recent incomers to Britain in difficult circumstances. Cytûn is a valuable forum for finding a voice and a means to information and political engagement. With the 500 years commemoration of the Reformation in October 2017 Cytûn will set something in place to mark it, in an age in which *church* now takes many forms. Friends sometimes find that they are not incorporated into Cytûn groups *at local level* and in this Meeting we have been encouraged to gentle persistence. We are encouraged also to make use in our Meetings of the QCCIR document 'A Spirit-led church'.

### **2016.25      *Wales 2050 conference***

Through MFW's Wales Focus Group and its representative on Cytûn's Laser group, David Harries, we have been aware of the Assembly's *Future Generations (Wales) Act* of 2015. The clerk circulated to Meetings details of the Assembly-organised conference on sustainability and *The Wales We Want (Wales 2050)* and a number of Friends attended. Robin Attfield has reported on the conference presentations about commitment to the future through attention to climate change and sustainable development. Meetings will be notified of similar conferences which resonate with our testimonies and interests, so that Quaker voices can be heard in them.

### **2016.26      *Meeting for Sufferings***

The need to test concerns properly emerged again, in Gethin Evans's report on Meeting for Sufferings, so that Sufferings should not be overburdened with issues and made less effective.

### **2016.27      *'Muslims in Britain: Changes and challenges'***

Today we have welcomed Prof. Sophie Gilliat-Ray and Mark Bryant of *The Centre for the Study of Islam in the UK* at Cardiff University. Mark reminded us in his presentation that Muslims in Britain are not a single simple entity. They are of diverse ethnic backgrounds, 'denominational' affiliation, diverse in interpretation of religious sources and in details of religious observance. How do we challenge the creation of negative associations in the public's mind where 'Muslims' are concerned? How do we go beyond welcome to enabling others to feel at home? We thank Mark and Sophie for our learning experience today.

### **2016.28      *The Pales: looking forward***

The Pales is Wales's oldest Meeting House in continuous use. Its tricentennial is in 2017. Jeff Beatty, clerk of Southern Marches Area Meeting has updated us on thinking about its future, since the Threshing Meeting on October 24<sup>th</sup> last year (Minute 2015.43 [iv]). The Pales is a beautiful and spiritual place and it is a venue for visitors and groups. Pales cottage now has a Friend in residence who provides welcome and maintenance. Jeff Beatty has spoken of the intention to preserve The Pales and to extend its use for the wider community, with the aim of securing its future in the face of funding challenges and the strictures of planning. Can we build a vision which encompasses both The Pales and Dolobran, Wales's oldest Meeting House, perhaps with pilgrims in mind? Friends from beyond Southern Marches Area Meeting and especially young Friends would be welcome to approach The Pales Steering Group with a view to serving on it.

### **2016.29      *Making ourselves known to Meetings***

Friends have been encouraged today to reflect and write down why they come to Meeting of Friends in Wales. The results will be studied by the Task and Finish Group on Clerkship and Administration. To make the remit and work of MFW more widely understood in Wales Catherine James feels led to spread the word by travelling and speaking briefly to local meetings. Christine Trevett has expressed willingness to do the same. This Meeting supports Catherine and Christine in their intention to speak to local meetings and others who perhaps would also agree to do this. Friends who attend MFW might also speak about it in their own meetings and ensuring wider circulation for *Calon* would help. The role of MFW in maintaining contact between Friends at local level and Wales's institutions, such as the Assembly, is an important one. In organising our Meetings should we consider drawing from the Northumbria model and, for example, meet on a Sunday with a local Meeting?

### **2016.30 Arrangements 2017**

The following draft arrangements for 2017 have been brought forward by Peter Hussey, convener of Arrangements group, and are acceptable.

- February 25th, St Thomas Church, LAMPETER, Speaker/Topic: Jane Laxton (tbf), Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture.
- June 24th, Subud Hall, BRECON, Speaker/Topic: Jessica Metherringham (BYM parliamentary engagement officer), Friends, engagement and devolution (title t.b.f.).
- October 21st, Methodist Church Hall, NEWTOWN, Speaker/Topic: Paula Harvey, Quaker Housing Trust (with Wales in view).

### **2016.31 Resources**

Ros Morley has reported on the situation regarding leaflet material and the use of copies of *Cyfarfod y Crynwyr a fi* for children, plus the on-going creation of two new roll-up banners. Their imagery and wording will reflect the lives and values of Quakers in Wales. These will be additions to our borrowable resources for Meetings, in due course. We thank resources group, our administrator and the other contributing Friends for the work they are doing. That group always welcomes suggestions for Quaker material which should be available in Welsh also.

### **2016.32 Minutes of record between Meetings**

- (1) Task and Finish Groups: the two Task and Finish Groups, addressing matters of Clerkship and Administration in MFW and the MFW website, began work in the first week of April 2016 and are to complete by September 30<sup>th</sup> 2016, to report to Trustees and to our October 2016 meeting. The start of these groups was delayed due to difficulty in finding Friends to serve.
- (2) On May 10th the clerk attended a reception for two Syrian Christian church leaders, representing Quakers in Wales.
- (3) Logo: In addition to the Quaker Q and Crynwyr C logos, protected for use by BYM, Meeting of Friends in Wales also uses the Crynwyr/Quaker logo created for use in Wales by our Friend Huw Meredydd Owen, whose work is here acknowledged with thanks. MFW owns copyright of this logo.
- (4) In commemoration of the life and work of the recently murdered MP for Batley and Spen, Jo Cox, we have held a collection to contribute to the three charities nominated by her family, namely Royal Voluntary Service, Hope Not Hate and The White Helmets – the unarmed rescue service personnel who operate in settings of violence and destruction. We ask our treasurer to forward the donation.

### **2016.31 Nominations and appointments**

We have asked at this meeting for two Friends to serve in finding names for nominating to Nominations group for the next triennium. Names brought forward and agreed are: Stevie Krayner and Jeff Beatty.

## **Completed appointments**

### **Meeting for Sufferings**

Gethin Evans replaces David Jones as MFW representative (Minute 2016.16). Francis Voelcker has agreed to report to MFW about Sufferings should Gethin Evans be unable to.

**AM appointment** Friends' Co-ordinator for the Royal Welsh Show, July 2016: Jeff Beatty (SMAM).

### **Between Meetings**

A Welsh speaking Friend to serve on a Task and Finish Group about the website, from April 1<sup>st</sup> to Sept. 30<sup>th</sup> 2016: Rhian Parry.

Quaker Ecumenical Representative to Undeb yr Annibynwyr Cymraeg annual meeting at Bala on 30th June: Rhian Parry.

## **Nominations received**

A Welsh speaking Friend to serve on the Resources Group from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017-December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019: Dafydd Jones.

A Friend from NWAM to serve on Arrangements Committee with immediate effect and to December 31st 2018. D. Bryn Jones.

These two names being acceptable, the Friends were appointed.

## **Nominations sought**

A co-clerk with immediate effect and to 31.12.2018.

An assistant clerk with immediate effect and to December 31st 2016.

Two trustees for Meeting of Friends in Wales to serve from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.

A Friend from North Wales to serve on Wales Focus Group from January 1<sup>st</sup> 2017 to December 31<sup>st</sup> 2019.

An Archivist for MFW records to serve immediately and to December 31st 2018.

A Friend to be ecumenical representative at the URC Synod in Carno on October 15<sup>th</sup> 2016.

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Show kindness to parents and kindred, to orphans and to the destitute, to near and distant neighbours, to those that keep company with you, to the traveller in need ... Al Qur'an Surah 4.36 ... Byddwch yn garedig i rieni a pherthnasau, i'r amddifad a'r anghenus, i gymdogion pell ac agos, i'r rhai sy'n rhannu cymdogaeth, i'r teithiwr anghenus ...

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