



Minutes of the Meeting held at Wrexham Meeting House 30th June 2018

2018.21 Opening worship

During our opening worship, Advices and Queries number 33 was read in Welsh and in English.

2018.22 Clerking today

Ros Morley is acting as co-clerk for today.

2018. 23 Attendance

We welcome 66 Friends here today, as recorded on the attendance list.

Representatives from Area Meetings are:

Mid Wales Area Meeting (MWAM): Tom Brown

North Wales Area Meeting (NWAM): Julia Aspden

Southern Marches Area Meeting (SMAM): no representative, but Peter Hussey is willing to report back

South Wales Area Meeting (SWAM): Peter Davies

Our elders today are: Julia Aspden and Tom Brown

Our translator today is: Steffan William

2018. 24 Calon and *The Friend*:

Denise Jones will write a report of this meeting for *Calon*, and Martin Morley will write and draw for *The Friend*.

2018.25 Minutes of record of between meetings' decisions:

The name of our Friend Gethin Evans (MWAM) was forwarded to Central Nominations Committee for consideration as our representative on QCCIR.

SWAM has added the name of Jane Harries to that of Janet Rees to be co-coordinator of the Quaker presence at the National Eisteddfod in Cardiff Bay in August.

2018.26 Nominations and appointments:

a) Nominations committee brings forward the following names:

co-clerks of MFW:

Tricia Jones (NWAM) from 01.01. 19 to 31.12.21

Catherine James (NWAM) from 01.01.19 to 31.12.19

Resources group: Rhian Parry (NWAM) immediately to 31.12.20

These names being acceptable, they are hereby appointed.

b) Nominations sought:

Assistant clerk; immediately and to 31.12.20

One member of resources group: from 01.01.19 to 31.12.21.

2018.27 National Eisteddfod Lecture 2018

Jane Harries will lecture at the National Eisteddfod on 'A Oes Heddwch?'/ 'Wales a Peaceful Nation?' on Wednesday 8th August at 4.30 in Cymdeithasau 2, within the Assembly Building. The list for volunteers in the Cytûn tent is available and Friends who are able to offer time are asked to contact Janet Rees of Cardiff Meeting.

2018.28 Royal Welsh Show:

Jeff Beatty is organising Quaker representation in the Cytûn tent at the Royal Welsh Show July 23-26th. Anyone who is able to help with this is asked to contact him at jeff.beatty@smquakers.org.uk

2018.29 Hay Festival 2018

BYM organised a stall at the Hay festival and members of MFW were able to be there as volunteers, helping with the outreach aspect of the work. The stall was very well organised; there was good outreach to schools and teachers, as well as the general public. There were gift bags with Welsh resources for adults, and the gift bags for children were very popular.

2018.30 BYM: Tabular Statement

In response to our minutes 2017.43 and 2018.09, BYM's tabular statement this year included separate figures for Wales including Oswestry, but did not include those who live in Wales but worship over the border. We thank the Recording Clerk for his work on this matter.

2018.31 Welsh Language Policy: memorandum of understanding

Following MFW minute 2018.08, the clerk has worked on the language policy with Rhian Parry (Welsh Language Advisory Group) and the office of the Commissioner for Welsh, and has discussed the policy with the recording clerk. Work on the full memorandum of

understanding between MFW and BYM will be taken forward next month and brought back to MFW at a later meeting.

2018.32 Ben Pink Dandelion: The State of the Society

Ben has given us an overview of the latest sociological research into Quakerism here in Britain, and what we should learn from this. The nature of belief is changing within modern society and within religious groups, including British Quakerism. We have heard an in-depth analysis of how we have changed over the last three decades and how we are still held together as a Religious Society. Ben has made us more aware of our theological diversity, yet also of how we hold a central sense of absolute perhapsness. We are seekers held by our way of worship, our opening to the spiritual, and our understanding of how we carry this into our everyday life. We have been greatly stimulated by Ben's talk.

2108.33 Focus Group and Trustees Meeting: Future direction and governance of MFW

Trustees and Focus group met together with the clerk to discuss the future direction of MFW in the light of the responses received at our meeting in October 2017. (MFW minutes 2017.45 and 2018.10) It was decided to have a conversation with individual Friends and Attenders, using SurveyMonkey and a paper questionnaire. We have agreed the draft letter and questions to be sent out bilingually to all Local Meetings. These will be attached to these minutes.

We hope that as many Friends and meetings as possible will respond.

2018.34 Work in Wales: 'Trying not to Quake – Confessions of a Prison chaplain'

Ruth Moore Williams brought her harp with her, and we have loved having music to begin and end her talk. She has told us of her journey in Quakerism and her growing sense of calling to be a prison chaplain. At her first entry into the prison her concern was the responsibility of representing Quakers there. Prison clips the wings of freedom. The scale of mental health problems in prison is great and the structures of prison are no help with this. She feels it is very important that Quakers continue to be involved with the prison system. We are grateful for and inspired by the work she and other Quaker volunteers do to alleviate the essential inhumanity which is part of any prison system. We attach four haiku written by some of the men as a result of the work done by one of the volunteers there. We uphold them all in the work.

2018.35 Archives

Our archivist, Alan Clark, has asked that we agree to deposit documents from 1992 to 2010 at the National Library. He suggests that there is generally open access to these documents (most are already in the public domain), but that where there is any question about the wisdom of open access for a particular document or group of documents, the archivist

should, in consultation with the clerks, put an embargo on these for an appropriate number of years. Requests to NLW for access to the deposited materials should be subject to approval by the Archivist. We agree to these suggestions.

2018.36 Trustees Annual Report and Budget

The trustees have prepared the annual report and accounts which are available here today. Martin Hughes, our treasurer, has prepared the budget for the year, which we accept.

2018.37 Reports:

The report from Quaker Life Representative Council has been available via email and in print here today. We thank Angela Ormrod for her work.

Cytûn; the Cytûn meeting took place this week and our Friend Gethin Evans, our new representative, attended with Deborah Rowlands, who has now completed six years' service on the board, for which our thanks.

2018.38: Search Group for Nominations Committee

Frances Voelcker and Ros Morley are appointed as a search group to find a name for Nominations Committee for 01.01.19 – 31.12.21

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Signed:

Catherine James
Clerk at this time

Ros Morley
Co-clerk at this time.