



## **Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 23rd June 2012 at Meifod**

### **2012.17 Opening Worship and Welcome**

*Quaker Faith and Practice* 24.60 has been read in our opening worship. We are pleased to welcome 39 Friends here today, as listed on the attendance sheet. We also welcome Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting, our speaker today.

The following Friends have been appointed by their Area Meetings to attend:

North Wales: Frank Brown

Mid Wales: Alan Rowlands and Cynthia Rowlands

South Wales: John Lewis

Sophie Meade and Alan Rowlands have been appointed to act as Elders for this meeting.

### **2012.18 *Calon* and *The Friend***

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

### **2012.19 CYTŪN**

CYTŪN, so Deborah Rowlands has told us, has been considering whether agreed principles take priority over structures, and wholeness in the church body over a 'visible unity' which is not achievable across the churches. The five Covenanting Churches in Wales are exploring shared models for governance and eucharist. As Friends we welcome their journey of co-operation, exploration and reconciliation. We ask Nominations Committee to find a Friend to attend the Churches' October conference in Aberystwyth. Deborah has also reported that discussions and contacts continue in relation to Christians in the Middle East, especially Syria. They continue, too, about a Christian Centre for Rural Wales (Minute 2011.40). Wales is moving towards becoming a Nation of Sanctuary as cities agree to participate in the movement. Deborah has found deep discernment in what CYTŪN is doing and a fresh confidence among its staff.

### **2012.20 The Royal Welsh Show (from Minute 2012.07)**

Deborah Rowlands reports that John Senior, who was appointed between meetings to be our representative at the Show, has attended the recent planning Meeting. We look forward to his report in due course.

## **2012.21 The National Eisteddfod (from Minute 2012.08)**

Christine Trevett has attended three meetings in relation to Friends' presence in the eisteddfod in the Vale of Glamorgan. She has told us of progress in relation to the Quiet Corner (which is our special responsibility), volunteers and making our presence known.

## **2012.22 Woodbrooke and *Living the Quaker Way***

We have heard that 18 Friends attended the most recent gathering in Milford Haven and that the next one for this year will be at The Pales in July. A full list of dates is on the MFW website.

## **2012.23 Update on the Welsh language poster (from Minute 2012.06)**

Jules Montgomery and Rhian Parry have described the painstaking progress towards a new Welsh language poster which will speak to both "Welshness" and the needs of the seeker. This is not a short process nor to be rushed. We are seeking "the poetic heart" of the matter. We are clear that we wish to proceed with the creation of our own Welsh poster in addition to the *Quaker Life* English posters already available. We have been told of the costs, which are appropriate. We invite our Nominations Committee to bring forward the names of four Friends to advise in the design process. Rhian Parry has reminded us of the context in which the need for such a poster arises. The Welsh speakers in the language advisory group would welcome wider participation by other Welsh speaking Friends, to develop work in sharing our Quakerism. They are invited to join the group's informal forum on e-mail.

## **2012.24 Update on the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust Project**

We have heard from Deborah Rowlands on behalf of the Project Group that the first of the tasks has been completed. The English sub-titled DVD *Y Ffordd Dawel? Tystiolaethau Pump o Grynwyr / The Quiet Way? Five Quakers' Experience* has been completed, distributed and is on sale. The result is a well-produced and valuable outreach tool. We thank those Friends tasked with its creation, those who featured in it and also Dewi Gregory its producer, whose work the Task Group found to be meticulous and sympathetic. Two books, one English and one Welsh, are the concern of the second Task Group. In a variety of ways, through writing groups, workshops and individuals, contributions are being encouraged and gathered.

## **2012.25 Children and Young People's Work advocates report**

Kate Binney's report has been read to us. CYP advocates have met twice and have taken opportunities to learn about problems encountered by some young people; to discover the state of provision in our four Area Meetings; and to encourage the work. We join Kate Binney in her thanks to those Friends who have been active in this. Her report is attached with these Minutes.

## **2012.26 Notice of October MFW**

Friends' attention is drawn to the MFW Minute of 2011.19 on the effects of "cuts" in Wales. In Lampeter in October 2012 we will be returning to the issue, as agreed in that earlier Minute. Friends with experience to share are encouraged to submit a Minute to MFW via their LMs. Area Meetings might wish to consider the matter and Minute the result before our October Meeting.

### **2012.27 Minute concerning an Appeal Group**

South Wales Area Meeting has requested Meeting of Friends in Wales to appoint a group of disinterested Friends, from beyond South Wales, to consider an Appeal against a decision of that Area Meeting. A similar group from Meeting of Friends in Wales has fairly recently completed its work in relation to another Appeal. In consultation with the Recording Clerk's Office it has seemed preferable in this instance that a neighbouring Area Meeting in England should be approached for the task.

### **2012.28 Quaker Life Representative Council Report**

Liz Butler has reported on how Meetings and individuals might be encouraged to experiment with ways of deepening their worshipping lives. Meetings now have the Quaker Life book *Deepening the Life of the Spirit*, which describes a number of spiritual practices. Day and weekend courses will also be available and Liz had attended some inspirational 'taster' workshops. We thank her for her report.

### **2012.29 Meeting for Sufferings**

Dave Butler's report, with input from Stevie Krayner, reminded us of the important issues which Meeting for Sufferings is addressing. These include the nature and significance of our public statements and the practice of advocacy. Making more effective contact with political decision-makers should become a priority for BYM and the indefinite detention of asylum seekers should be a matter for protest. Friends were encouraged to heed the Society's need for more and regular financial contributions, if its work is to continue. The financial statement for 2012 indicated that individual contributions have continued to decrease.

### **2012.30 Militarization of Wales**

In the light of the First Minister's reported statement that nuclear submarines, if ousted from Scottish bases, would be welcome in Milford Haven, and given concerns about the militarization of Wales, we ask our CYTŪN representative to take this matter forward when and as appropriate. Also we encourage Local Meetings and individuals themselves to act on these issues as ways open to them.

**2012.31 A portion of a *Testimony to the Grace of God Shown in the Life of Stephen Griffith*** of Milford Haven Meeting has been read at the start of our afternoon session. The Testimony is endorsed by this Meeting and will be forwarded to Britain Yearly Meeting.

## 2012.32 The Future of Quakers in Britain

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk for Britain Yearly Meeting, made his theme *The Future of Quakers in Britain*. “It is our search for God’s way that has drawn us together” (QFP 10.3) and Paul Parker has given us a thought-provoking account of his own role and of Britain Yearly Meeting’s engagement in a great deal of work in response to its faith. Quakerism offers a radical, liberal tradition and one, he thinks, poised to ‘take off’ with a *whoosh!* Our revitalization is called for: in terms of our language; in terms of our support - which includes our willingness to engage with Quaker Life Network and to offer service; and in terms of contributing financially. Only 30% of the work done in our name is paid for by living Quakers. In groups we considered: (1) what, of what we had heard, resonated in our own experience and (2) what signs of vitality we experienced in our Meetings. Our responses will be summarized and included as an Appendix to this Minute. We thank Paul Parker for his witness today.

## 2012.33 Yearly Meeting 2012

Del Yale has given us an account of Yearly Meeting in London as “a feast for mind, body and spirit.” We thank Del for a stimulating report which is attached for record.

## 2012.34 Nominating Group, Nominations and Appointments

The following have agreed to act as a nominating group for Friends who will serve on Nominations Committee, to bring two names to our October meeting: Michael Still and Susan Greaves.

### Nominations and appointments

The following names were brought for Friends’ consideration and appointed between Meetings:

- **Eisteddfod co-ordinator 2012 (as from Minute 2012.08):** Christine Trevett (Bridgend) with Janet Rees (Cardiff)
- **Representative for the Royal Welsh Show (as from Minute 2012.07):** John Senior (Llandrindod and Pales).

*The following Friend is nominated (for appointment by Meeting for Sufferings)*

- **Meeting for Sufferings representative alternate (from Yearly Meeting 2012-Yearly Meeting 2015)** Frances Voelcker

*The following Friends were nominated and were appointed*

- **Treasurer (to end 2015)** Lynn Moseley
- **Cytûn International Affairs Committee (to end 2013)** Donald Saunders

Signed: Julia Aspden

co-clerks

Christine Trevett