



Minutes of the Meeting held Saturday 24th June 2017 in Brecon

2017.16 Opening worship and welcome:

The poem *Pa Beth yw Dyn?* by Waldo Williams has been read in Welsh and in Tony Conran's English translation during our time of worship.

We have welcomed 46 Friends today, according to the attendance sheet.

Our elders today are Frank Brown and Carolyn Sansom

Our translator today is Steffan Wiliam.

The following Friends were named by their meetings to attend:

NWAM Rhian Parry (reporting), Frank Brown, Frances Voelcker,

MWAM Gethin Evans

SWAM Anne Hosking, Joan Darbyshire

SMAM Jeff Beatty

2017.17 *Calon and The Friend*: Sheila Cunnington has agreed to write about this Meeting for *Calon* and Siw Wood for *The Friend*.

2017.18 Greetings from Netherlands Yearly Meeting:

We are pleased to have received Friendly greetings from Netherlands Yearly Meeting through its clerk Marlies Tjallingii, brought by Maryse Newnham to us.

2017.19 The National Eisteddfod, Royal Welsh Show and Yearly Meeting Gathering:

(i) Gwyneth Hewitson is co-ordinating our presence at the National Eisteddfod in Bodedern, Anglesey, August 5th to 12th and Jeff Beatty at the Royal Welsh Show in Llanellwedd, 24th-27th July. Jeff Beatty has attended preparatory meetings and has told us of greater prominence for a daily Meeting for Worship this year. All local meetings will be circulated with reminders and the means to offer to volunteer. Friends can also sign the volunteers' rota at this Meeting. Our administrator is ensuring that resources are available for these venues.

(ii) The eisteddfod Quaker lecture 2017 will be held on Wednesday August 9th at 1.30 in The Societies' Tent. Simultaneous translation will be provided when Huw Meredydd Owen speaks on *Yr Eiliad, Yr Awr a'r Twll yn y Tô* (*The Moment, The Hour and the Hole in the Roof*). We hope Friends will support this outreach with their attendance.

(iii) Yearly Meeting Gathering: Friends from Wales attending Yearly Meeting Gathering on Warwick university campus are encouraged to support last year's eisteddfod lecturer, Gethin Evans. He is giving his lecture on John Edward Southall in English, at 7.p.m. on Thursday August 3rd (room Oculus 0.03). This is an opportunity both to show a Friends in Wales' presence at YMG and in an age of many people's fears around identity and the incomer to present one Quaker's response. The English version is entitled *John Edward Southall, forgotten Quaker, adopted Welshman*.

All local meetings will be circulated with these details and encouraged to support our Friends speaking at the Eisteddfod and at Yearly Meeting Gathering.

2017.20 The Hay book festival.

We have received reports from Peter Hussey and Ros Morley on this event, in which Quakers had a presence for the first time. Both Friends regarded being there as highlights of their year. If Quakers continue to be at Hay we should consider the creation of clear maps indicating where meetings are found in Wales and beyond and materials on who Quakers are. The resources we provided could have been better displayed and marketed and in future years we should liaise closely with the organisers, *Quaker Life*, at the time of set-up of the Quaker stall. The staged event with three Quaker writers was fully booked and led to many enquirers going to the Quaker stall. We thank all those Friends who at short notice pulled together to ensure resources were created and delivered, volunteers gathered and who themselves volunteered to be a Friendly presence there.

2017. 21 Update on the website:

Jules Montgomery reports that a web designer has been asked to give the web-group a rough copy of what our new web site might look like and how it might be used, based on the brief given to him by the group which wants the site to emphasise the spiritual side of Quakerism, and to be simpler. It will be possible to transfer between Welsh and English on each page, which will help learners.

We agree that the group ask the designer for a price to do this work; the group will discuss this with the treasurer before proceeding further. We thank Rhian Parry and Alma Whitton for their ongoing work with this task and with our administrator.

2017.22 Report from Quaker Life Representative Council:

Angela Ormrod has reported on 'Helping Seekers Find Quakers – Being Worth the Finding!' The report contains suggestions for outreach which are clear possibilities for smallish meetings, including talking about our faith, and reminds us that relevant help and information are available from Friends House in London. We need to ensure that we have good and appropriate material in Welsh also. Our numbers are falling; we have many roles to fill; we need to be creative about how we do what really needs to be done, to release the spirit, and we need to share the burden. Angela's report is attached with these Minutes.

2017.23 Report on the work of Cytûn:

We have received a full and interesting report on the work of Cytûn from Deborah Rowlands, our representative on the board. It shows how Cytûn has strong links with overseas Christian Ecumenical bodies, as well as being the forum for Welsh Churches to come together over matters of mutual concern and interest. It also has an important Interfaith role in Wales, and we are reminded to invite people of other faiths to local acts of witness. We take an active part in Cytûn's outreach role at central annual Welsh events, such as the Royal Show and the National Eisteddfod, and are represented on both its Racial Justice Network, its committees for social affairs and policy officers and its finance committee.

2017.24 Clerk's report on MFW Archives:

Christine Trevett has reported the loss of MFW archives which we believed had been deposited in the National Library of Wales following interim deposit in Denbigh Archives. We have been following up this matter over the last 18 months. Minute 2011.07 had read as follows:

‘Archived material: Past papers have been lodged with our archivist at Denbighshire Records Office. These include correspondence from 1982 onwards, files concerning the Spiritual Hospitality Project, Mae’r Gân yn y Galon, and files relating to structures in Wales and the Borders. Jane Brunning, our archivist, has advised that the material should eventually be stored in the National Library of Wales, and she will arrange for this to be done.’

Material from the original Committee for Quaker Work in Wales cannot be replicated and therefore is lost from record totally. So far as is possible the materials of MFW’s history are being reassembled, to be deposited. Deborah Rowlands, Jules Montgomery and the clerk are working on this. Any Friends having relevant early correspondence, material from MFW’s earliest days and on structures and borders should please contact the clerk or MFW’s administrator. Our new archivist Alan Clark has been informed and will be working with us on this matter.

2017.25 Work by Friends in Wales:

As part of learning about work being done in Wales or done by Friends from Wales David Harries of Bridgend Meeting has told us of the *Friends of Monze* project. This is a registered charity based at Bridgend Meeting. Deana Owen, a health visitor, returned to Zambia in her retirement, where she had once worked, to further community development there. As part of the work two schools have been built, water supplied, permaculture education and other projects set up to establish sustainable methods of income generation. Small projects are run with communities and working in partnership with local groups, especially women and children. Bridgend Friends serve on the charity’s committee and it receives grants from QPSW and elsewhere and funds raised through Bridgend Meeting. The website address for the charity is: www.friendsofmonze.org/. We thank David Harries for sharing knowledge of this work with us.

2017.26 Preparing to mark 25 years of MFW:

Our October 2017 Meeting in Newtown will mark 25 years of Meeting of Friends in Wales. As well as items about MFW in *The Friend* we plan to have a display of past achievements and creations by MFW together with a cake at our October meeting.

We have suggestions:

Invite visitors – from Friends House, from other churches, and other faiths.

Share food and conversations about who we are, what we believe and what we do.

Be in touch with radio Wales/radio Cymru/ S4C.

Launch the web-site at the meeting.

A small group of four, comprising the clerk, assistant clerk, Ros Morley, and Dafydd Jones has been established to carry this matter forward and thereafter to liaise with Arrangements Committee.

2017.27 Terms of Reference:

TORs for the following groups have been updated:

Arrangements; Clerkship; Nominations; Resources; Trustees. These are acceptable to the Meeting pro tem and will be brought again to our October meeting, plus the TORs for Focus Group. They will be available on the MFW website in due course and suggestions for change may be forwarded to the clerk, before the next Meeting.

2017.28 'Politics where next?...'

Jessica Metheringham works for BYM in parliamentary engagement and advocacy. We have welcomed her as our speaker today, at a time of great political uncertainty in Britain. She has described the nature and scope of her work and has shared with us thoughts on planning, i.e. digging into the *what* and the *why*, the *where* we are in the history of an issue and the *how*, of how it might change, taking account of our language and the triggering of emotion. How do we speak to somebody else's condition in language meaningful to them? How do we promote truth and integrity in public affairs? Change comes slowly. We need to determine who should best be approached. We need to consider what power they have and what they will hear. How do we talk to and hear each other also? Jessica has led us in a thought-provoking exercise on values. We thank her for joining us today.

2017.29 Trustees and Finance:

Frank Brown, clerk of Trustees has suggested to the Meeting that an assistant treasurer for MFW should be appointed. The Meeting supports such an appointment. We ask our Nominations Committee to bring forward a name.

2017.30 MFW proposed Arrangements for 2018:

We have received a list of proposed venues and speakers for 2018 for our consideration. This was a draft document and we look forward to seeing an updated version at our October Meeting.

2017.31 Peace Week resource for Schools:

QPSW has produced a substantial and valuable peace education resource for schools in the form of a Peace Week package, which will soon be launched. Some sample pages have been displayed today. Friends in Wales who have seen this resource and/or been consulted on it have recommended to us that it should be available for schools in Welsh also, since almost a third of children in Wales are educated in Welsh. This Meeting endorses the wish that it should be translated and the clerk will forward this Minute to Isabel Cartwright of QPSW.

2017.32 MINUTES BETWEEN MEETINGS

(i) Change of Meeting name:

We note that following SMAM Minute 17/16 (28th February 2017) the name of Llandrindod & Pales Quaker Meeting is to be recorded as Llandrindod Local Quaker Meeting. The Pales continues to be a regular place of worship as well as being designated a resource for the Area Meeting and others who may benefit from it.

(ii) Use of copyright material:

(a) The clerk of MFW has received in writing from Bronwen Roberts permission to use, in whole or part, material in the Dolgellau Quaker tapestry. This is for its use in the work and resource-creation of Meeting of Friends in Wales and subject always to its oversight. The clerk has thanked Bronwen Roberts by letter.

(b) The copyright of photographs of the tapestry and its history, taken by Jean Napier, is now with her written consent transferred to MFW. We are grateful for these receipts of permission and copyright and we thank Rhian Parry for her work towards this.

(iii) Report of MFW to Meeting for Sufferings

As noted in Minute 2017.09 the clerk wrote to express willingness to report on MFW's work and concerns to Meeting for Sufferings on an annual basis. It is agreed that the first such report will be given by the clerk of MFW and Gethin Evans our representative to that meeting, in December 2017.

2017.33 NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Appointments between meetings

- The sub group appointed to find a nominee for Nominations Group for the present triennium (Minute 2016.31, namely Jeff Beatty and Stevie Kraye) brought forward the name of Del Gwynfyd Harris, Aberystwyth Meeting, who has been appointed between meetings to serve from March 25th 2017 to December 31st 2019.
- To co-ordinate volunteer names for the Hay literary festival, May 2017: Janet Barlow (Cardiff LM) was appointed.
- The convener determined by Arrangements Committee is Joyce Gooding, who has been appointed.
- To attend the Welcome tea of the Union of Welsh Independents on Thursday June 15th: Carey Thomas.

Nominations sought

A sub group is needed to nominate a Friend for the Nominations Committee for the next triennium: Carolyn Sansom and Stevie Kraye have agreed to this task during the Meeting and have been confirmed in the role.

Additionally:

- A co-clerk to serve immediately and to December 31st 2019
- A co-clerk to serve from 01.01.2018 to 31.12.2020
- An editor for Calon
- A Trustee for MFW to serve immediately and to 31.12.2019

Gethin Evans, MFW representative on Meeting for Sufferings, was agreed to be someone this meeting would be content to see as representative for a further triennium, should Meeting for Sufferings seek our view.

Signed

Signed

_____ (Clerk MFW) _____ (Asst Clerk MFW)

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