

East Cheshire Quaker Meeting

To be held as a blended meeting at Coppenhall Methodist Church,
Bradfield Road, Crewe. CW1 3RD

Saturday 13 July 2024 at 10.30 am

Agenda

1. Friends present

2. Reading

3. Caring for Friends

4. Between meetings minute (30 May 2024)

Summer School costs. East Cheshire Area Meeting has been approached by the Summer School treasurer asking us to make a contribution of £550 this year towards the costs of running Summer School. All area meetings in the old Lancashire and Cheshire General Meeting are being approached to contribute towards £4,200, the same total as last year, which covers about a fifth of the overall cost of Summer School, the remainder coming from the participants' fees. We agree to this payment and ask the treasurer to make the payment.

5. Death of Wendy Robinson

We have received the following minute from Cheadle Hulme Meeting held on 7 July 2024.

Wendy Kathleen Robinson (28 June 1939 - 4 May 2024)

We record with sadness the death of Wendy Robinson on 4 May 2024 at the age of 84. Her funeral with a celebration of her life took place at Stockport Crematorium on Monday 3 June and several of us were present.

Wendy was a lifelong Quaker growing up in Sale Meeting and has been a member of our meeting for over forty years. We have many happy memories of her participation in the life of the meeting, contributing in a variety of ways. In recent years we have seen less of her for health reasons. When she first arrived in our meeting we enjoyed having her children Sarah, Frances and Christopher in our Sunday School. We give thanks for the grace of God as shown in the life of Wendy Robinson.

6. Death of Alan Russell

Further to Minute 24.03.05, we have received the following minute from Marple Meeting held 30 June 2024.

Memorial meeting for Alan Russell: A meeting to give thanks for the grace of God as shown in the life of our Friend, Alan Russell, was held at Marple Methodist Church on Saturday 11 th May. It was a joyful occasion, and well attended by Friends from across the Area Meeting. We agreed to cover the catering costs from Meeting funds.

The following testimony will be forwarded to Area Meeting.

The testimony is circulated with this agenda.

7. Death of Rob English
Wilmslow Friends have informed us of the death of Rob English on 23 June in Bradford. We heard yesterday the sad news of the death of Rob English on 23rd June in Bradford. Latterly he had been living in a nursing home near his to niece. Rob was an attender at Wilmslow Meeting for many decades, coming to Meeting for Worship every Sunday. He took an active part in the life of the Meeting, having been Assistant Clerk for several years. His dedicated work as indexer for our Local Meeting records and for those of Area Meeting was much appreciated. Rob wished to have a Memorial Meeting at Wilmslow. This will be arranged in the coming months.
8. Application for membership: Joy Anderson (Wilmslow Meeting)
Further to Minute 24.05.04, we have received a report on a visit with Joy from Sally Mendham and Anne Lewis.
9. Application for membership: Ian Parker (Marple Meeting)
10. Minutes from Area Meeting Trustees held 8 June 2024 (Hilary Brooks)
Circulated with this agenda.
11. Marriage of Taylor Giacoma and David Shoesmith
 (a) Certificate of accomplishment
Further to Minute 24.03.10, we have received a Certificate of Accomplishment for the marriage of Taylor Giacoma, a member of East Cheshire Area Meeting, and David Shoesmith, not in membership, at the Friends Meeting House, Mount Street, Manchester on Saturday 6 July 2024 at 3 pm. The marriage has been legally registered.
 (b) Minute from Area Meeting Trustees held 8 June 2024
We have received the following minute from Trustees.
24.06.02: Wedding of Taylor Giacoma and David Shoesmith
 Disley Friends would like to pay for the refreshments after the wedding at Mount Street with a donation of £200.
 We ask AM to match that amount to defray the staffing costs at Mount Street as they have not asked Taylor and David for a hiring fee.
12. Area Meeting annual report and accounts for 2023 (Brenda Curran)
Circulated with this agenda. The annual report and accounts were approved by Area Meeting Trustees on 8 June (Minute 24.06.07).
13. Local meeting financial contributions to Area Meeting in 2024 (Frances Hill)
Proposed contributions from local meetings in 2024.

Local Meeting	Members & attenders	Contribution
Cheadle Hulme	13	£688.74
Crewe & Nantwich	8	£423.84
Disley	34	£1,801.32
Frاندley	24	£1,271.52
Marple	20	£1,059.60
Wilmslow	28	£1,483.44
Stockport	24	£1,271.52
TOTAL	151	£7,999.98

14. Worshipping Group in Glossop

Further to Minute 23.11.13 we have received the following minute from Disley Meeting held on 2 June 2024.

Worshipping Group in Glossop: At present the Worshipping Group is going well. There have been three meetings of the Group so far and the next one will take place this Wednesday, 5 th June. There have been three or four regular attenders, two email enquiries and an enquirer through the website. For further publicity, another advertisement may be put in the Glossop Chronicle and/or leaflets in locations in Glossop.

Keith thanked Area Meeting Elders for their support. Disley meeting hopes we will take this venture forward with enthusiasm.

We ask Area Meeting to consider financial support for further bookings at Bradbury House from August and to have this on their Agenda for the July Area Meeting.

We have also received the following minute from Area Meeting Elders held on 11 June 2024.

Review of Glossop worshipping group

We have received a written report from Keith Braithwaite, and several of us have attended the new worshipping group since it started in March. We are happy to continue offering our support and hope to see the group continue as proposed for another six months.

Disley has also considered this review and adds its support to a further extension. It has forwarded a Minute to the Clerk of Area Meeting, asking that we consider some financial support at this stage.

As AM elders, we are enthusiastic about this outreach initiative, which is going well. We will supply copies of Advices & Queries for the Glossop group.

We will forward this Minute to the Clerk of Area Meeting, together with Keith's report.

Keith Brithwaite's report is circulated with this agenda.

15. Report on Meeting for Sufferings 1 June 2024 (Sally Mendham)

Circulated with this agenda.

16. Possible endorsement of Quaker statement on Israel and Palestine (see

<https://afsc.org/newsroom/different-future-possible-quaker-organizations-share-vision-peace-palestine-and-israel>)

17. Teenage General Meeting

We have received a letter (circulated with this agenda) from Wirral and Chester Area Meeting informing us and other area meetings in the northwest that they no longer feel able to take responsibility for Teenage General Meeting. This will be considered by our Children and Young People's Committee at their meeting next week. It appears that Manchester and Warrington Area may convene a meeting of representatives of northwest area meetings to consider the future of Teenage General Meeting and how it might best be run.

18. Wording of the marriage declaration

Further to Minute 24.01.08 and the Meeting for Sufferings consultation on the wording of the marriage declaration we have received the following minute from Stockport Meeting held 5 May 2024.

Marriage Declaration

Tim Carlisle led a discussion meeting about marriage in general and the declaration in particular. Stockport Friends thought that all Quakers wishing to marry in a Quaker Meeting should be able to do so, using words which were acceptable to them. It was concluded that the declaration should remain as it is as a basis. However, it should allow for much more flexibility than the choice of alternatives available at the moment. We suggest that the couple meet with the Registering Officer and Elders to decide together a form of words which expresses what the couple want to say, is agreeable to them all and fulfils legal obligations while retaining a spiritual content.

19. Document retention policy

We have received the following minute from Frandley Meeting held on 30 June 2024.

Document retention policy.

We considered briefly at our last Business Meeting the reports from our various sub-groups on how they currently hold records and how this compares with the new AM Policy . After considering the reports we minuted:

From the responses we can see that all groups are keeping records, but not always in the format that the new AM policy suggests. We also have some queries about what needs to be kept as hard copy rather than digital and the rationale for this.

We agree to return to this at our next Meeting for Business.

We have further considered how our different sub-groups retain documents. We agree to send this Minute to AM and ask for an opportunity for LMs to get greater clarity on both retrospective and ongoing record keeping for different purposes.

20. Britain Yearly Meeting 2024 preparation session held on Sunday 16 June

Minute of record.

21. The Kindlers

We have received the following minute from Area Meeting Elders held on 11 June 2024.

The Kindlers

We heard from Paul Gee about The Kindlers, who offer a menu of all day workshops to meetings. We explored whether a workshop like this would be helpful in our meetings. There is a cost of £100 for the day.

We are attracted by the idea of sharing our spiritual lives more deeply. What does “Spirit led” mean to us? How do we put this into practice in our lives?”

We will send a copy of this minute, together with a link to the Kindlers website, to Area Meeting Clerk, to gauge interest in local meetings.

The website referred to is as follows. <https://thekindlers.org.uk/>

22. Area Meeting weekend at Glenthorne 12 – 14 September 2025

Request to Nominations Committee to seek names of Friends to plan the weekend.

23. Quaker Mental Health Forum day conference at Mount Street Meeting House on 12 October

Information about this has been circulated to local meeting clerks.

24. Visitor to Wilmslow Meeting

We have received the following minute from Wilmslow Meeting held on 7 July 2024.

Susan Herod's Visit to Wilmslow Meeting

Susan Herod has come from California to visit the area where her ancestors, the Janney Family, were among the first Quakers.

We were delighted to have her join us for Meeting for Worship this Sunday and to speak about her family. We wish Susan well in her continuing research into her Cheshire family and hope she will keep in touch with us in the future.

We ask our Clerk to forward this Minute to Area Meeting.

Lunch will be provided after the morning meeting by Crewe & Nantwich Friends

Afternoon workshop on racial justice and equality

After lunch we will have a Workshop on Racial Justice and Equality led by Edwina Peart who is the Yearly Meeting Equity and Justice Lead. It is hoped to start this at 1.30 pm lasting about ninety minutes.

Date and place of next meeting: Saturday 14 September at 10.30 am Disley Methodist Church followed by lunch

Papers circulated with this agenda:

Testimony to the Grace of God in the life of Alan Russell

Minutes of Area Meeting Trustees 8 June 2024

East Cheshire Area Meeting report and annual accounts for 2023

Report on the Glossop Worshipping Group

Report on Meeting for Sufferings 1 June 2024

PowerPoint presentation on the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI)

Letter about Teenage General Meeting