

Minutes of East Cheshire Area Meeting

March 11th 2017, 11am, held at Copenhall Methodist Church, Crewe

17.03.01 Friends present

There are 28 Friends present. All our Meetings are represented

17.03.02 Reading

Advices and Queries 29 and 30 from Quaker Faith and Practice have been read in our opening worship.

17.03.03 Caring for Friends

We have heard of a number of Friends who are unwell and we are holding them in our thoughts. We ask our Assistant Clerk and Liz Morris to send our greetings.

17.03.04 Annual Duties and Outward Affairs

Further to Minute 16.11.22 and 16.11.23 the clerks can confirm that all our Local Meetings with the exception of Crewe and Nantwich have responded and verified that they have fulfilled their Annual Duties and reminded Friends of their responsibilities for the right ordering of their Outward Affairs.

17.03.05 Membership, Marian Shepherd

Further to our BMM 17.02.23 of 13th February which reads "*We have received an application for membership from Marion Shepherd of Crewe and Nantwich Meeting. We appoint David McBride and Denise Renshaw to visit Marion and bring a report to our next meeting.*", David McBride has reported on the visit they had with Marian.

We are pleased to accept her application.

We ask Marie Lebacq to welcome Marian into our Area Meeting, and to enquire what book she would like.

17.03.06 Application for membership: Caroline Platt

We have received a letter of application for membership from Caroline Platt of Marple Meeting. We appoint Sue Pounder and Bridget Dunbar to visit Caroline and bring a report to our next meeting

17.03.07 Nominations

Nominations Committee has forwarded the names of the following Friends from Crewe and Nantwich Meeting to serve until the end of 2019:

Sarah Worth, Elder,

Marian Shepherd, Overseer

These names being acceptable, the Friends are appointed accordingly.

17.03.08 Treasurer's business

2015 Accounts

We authorise the Area Meeting Clerk to sign the 2015 Area Meeting Annual Report and Accounts once they have been approved by the examiner and also by Area Meeting Trustees and all Friends have had an opportunity to raise queries and make comments.

Contribution Schedule

We authorise the Area Meeting Treasurer to circulate a schedule of contributions from local meetings to Area Meeting based on the budget agreed at the February Meeting and the numbers of "active participants" in each meeting as last year.

17.03.09 Forced Migration

We have read and heard further reports from the Friends who attended the conference on Forced migration at Woodbrooke in early February.

We have been encouraged to act both individually and corporately on this.

We encourage Friends individually to resist all attempts to create a hostile environment, and to work to create a welcoming environment to all instead, supporting refugees, asylum seekers and other immigrants.

We encourage Friends to contact MPs about these questions and to share responses via Denise Renshaw locally and our [BYM] Parliamentary Liaison Officer, Jessica Metheringham.

We suggest that local meetings might like to have supportive letter writing session for this.

As an Area Meeting we agree to explore ideas of running a conference on forced migration, working with other churches and faith groups. We ask Andrew Backhouse to coordinate this.

17.03.10 Five minute find-out

We thank Elizabeth Ayres for sharing some of her family history, with stories, and an appreciation of her grounding in her Quaker heritage.

17.03.11 Library catalogue

Nominations Committee has raised the question of whether an Area Meeting Library cataloguer is needed, since the retirement of Sheila Whitehead from this post some time ago.

We have discussed the possible virtues of having an updated central catalogue of the books on our library shelves, and the steps that would have to be taken to achieve this.

We have been reminded that most Friends, attenders and enquirers choose to read books that are individually recommended.

We do not feel the need to seek an Area Meeting Library Coordinator.

17.03.12 Death of Ian Hamilton

Further to Minute 17.02.09, we have received Minute 17.03.05 from Stockport Meeting. We give thanks for the Grace of God as shown in Ian's life.

17.03.13 Death of Les Johnson

Further to Minute 17.02.07 we have received Minute 17.03.04 from Stockport Meeting. We give thanks for the Grace of God as shown in Les's life.

17.03.14 Quakers in Criminal Justice

Julia Horn has reported on a conference on Restorative Justice held by Quakers in Criminal Justice at Woodbrooke. We look forward to reading a written report and having a chance to ask questions at another time.

17.03.15 Trustees – Wilmslow Guild

We have received a Minute from ECAM Trustees relating to the Wilmslow Guild. We note the decision that the lease should continue unchanged. We thank Gavin Mendham and all others involved for their work and advice on this.

17.03.16 Quaker Life Representative Council

Sue Pounder has told us of the theme of the QL Rep Council to be held in April. This is "Helping seekers find Quakers – being worth the finding!". We are asked to consider the attached questions and send responses to Sue.

17.03.17 Afternoon Learning Session on End of Life Issues

We have had a stimulating afternoon considering loss and dying attended by 25 Friends, We have talked openly about loss, the importance of sharing our journeys "walking side by side", of love And listening.

Our thanks to Mary Faith Autumn for introducing and helping us plan our session.

We thank Crewe and Nantwich Friends for their hospitality during the day.

Signed in and on behalf of of East Cheshire Area Meeting, Sally Mendham, Assistant Clerk

LM Clerks please note minutes

17.03.09 Forced Migration

17.03.16 Quaker Life Representative Council.

Regarding the latter minute, the questions are to gather a sense of how other Friends and our meetings feel about being a Quaker today.

1. What is it about being a Quaker that excites or inspires you? Is that reflected in your experience of local and area meeting? Do your meetings nurture the spiritual development of young people? How do they do that?

2. Do the people around you know that you are a Quaker? How do they know that? Do you have the confidence to be Quaker and do Quaker? What is the source of that confidence? What do you need to be confident in sharing your Quaker faith with others?

3. How do visitors find your meetings? Do you ask visitors how they found Quakers? Do you have a sense that your local and area meetings welcome visitors? How do they do that? Have you recently spoken to a newcomer? Let us know how it goes when you do.

4. Do you understand the role of Quaker Life in supporting meetings in their out-reach and in-reach? Are your meetings being supported by Quaker Life? What tools do you need to reach out to individuals and communities?

Please consider and send responses to Sue Pounder of Marple Meeting by mid-April ready for her meeting April 21st-23rd.

Notices

Next Area Meeting:

Sunday 14th May Frandley MH. Lunch then 13.45 start

National Quaker Day of Healing

Saturday 18th March 11.00am-4.00pm, Stockport Meeting House

Stockport & Disley Friends Fellowship of Healing groups will host the day for ECAM. The purpose is to hold in the Light all people, places and situations which are of concern to us individually or collectively. Everyone is welcome to attend for as long or short a time as they wish. Bring your own lunch if required. Drinks and biscuits available all day.

Nuclear weapons ban treaty - Lobby of Parliament, 1 March

Multilateral negotiations for a new nuclear disarmament treaty begin in New York on 27 March. 134 countries will be taking part, and the UK is not one of them, despite 'multilateral disarmament' being government policy. We are being asked to write to our MPs and to the Foreign Secretary, sign a petition and attend a mass lobby of parliament on 1 March to urge our government to attend.

Tim Wallis, timw@quaker.org.uk, 0207 663 1067 www.quaker.org.uk/disarm

Family day - Friday 2 June 2017, Friends House, London

This day is a great opportunity for children, with an accompanying adult, to visit, find out about and enjoy Friends House and learn more about the work that goes on here.

Book online or contact cypadmin@quaker.org.uk or 020 7663 1013

What have you learned from the process of reading *Quaker faith & practice*?

The Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group invite feedback from all those who have been reading our current book – whether you have formed a group, read it

alone, raced ahead or are taking it slowly. There is only one question: what have you learned from the process of reading *Quaker faith & practice*? Your comments will inform the process of discernment about whether it is time to revise our book of discipline, which Yearly Meeting will probably consider in 2018

Please complete the form at: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/ReadingQfp or write to Michael Booth, Friends House, 173 Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

Survey from North Wales Credit Union Group

The North Wales Credit Union Group, supported by Quaker Peace & Social Witness, would like you to fill in their survey.

In English: <http://bit.ly/Qcredit>

In Welsh: <http://bit.ly/Qcredit-welsh>

See bilingual leaflet for further information.

Maya Williams, mayaw@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1056

Take action on fracking at ‘meeting for worship for witness’ on Pendle Hill

2pm, 6 May, Pendle Hill, Lancashire

Pendle Hill Friends invite you to a ‘meeting for worship for witness’ on top of Pendle Hill to draw attention to the threat of potential local shale gas fracking. This follows a statement by Meeting for Sufferings in February calling for a ban on fracking to help urgently tackle our climate crisis. If you’d like to find out more about the event or want to attend, please contact Maya Williams (details below).

To find out more about fracking and other ways of taking action, visit

www.quaker.org.uk/sustainability. Maya Williams, mayaw@quaker.org.uk, 020 7663 1056