

Disley Quaker Meeting for worship for business
Sunday 2nd March 2025

1. During the opening silence we heard read paragraph 2.85 from Quaker Faith & Practice.

2. The Minutes of the last meeting, held on Sunday Feb 2nd had been circulated

3. Matters arising:

a) Area Meeting papers

Further to Minute 3 of our February meeting, the Area Meeting Clerk has responded to us about early distribution of AM papers. Peter Eccles says he will try to do this, although it depends when in the month the AM is held.

b) Coffee morning 3rd May

Further to minute 13 of our February meeting, we have received a friendly reply from Disley Parish council after we let them know we are withdrawing from our coffee morning commitment on 3rd May.

4. Representatives for AM

Ben Evens and Ann Lewis will represent us at AM in Cheadle Hulme on 11th March.

5. Intervisitation

River will visit Frandley on 23rd March and Ann L on 30th.
River will visit Stockport during April

6. Collections

During January we collected £125 for the Belay Foundation.
During February we collected £140 so far for Glenthorne's Welcome Project.
During March we are collecting for Kids of Colour.

(6. cont.....)

During 2024 we had a collection for an Eco charity in Palestine and raised £160.

Our Treasurer Jennifer tells us that to make this donation we would incur bank charges, including international bank charges, as the charity in question is based in the United States.

We agree to substitute Medical Aid for Palestinians for the Eco charity, and Jennifer will send the £160 to them.

7. Treasurer's items:

a) Annual accounts,

Two summary account documents have been circulated – one of which is in the format required for sign-off by our area meeting. We accept the accounts, subject to a correction to the figures on the Vernon Building Society account.

Our treasurer Jennifer spoke to some key points, and will follow up with a full financial report at our Bricks & Mortar meeting on 23rd March.

She highlighted that Friends' contributions to the meeting are up and hirings are looking healthy. She noted that there was no expenditure on the Children's Meeting during the year.

We also noted the major items of expenditure on our building this year, for example the windows, guttering and the roof, and Jennifer reminded us that we have received some financial support towards the cost from Area Meeting.

Some disappointment was expressed that our current contribution to Britain Yearly Meeting has gone down due to financial pressures.

We thank our Treasurer for all her hard work on our behalf. The Clerk will send a card of thanks to David Cartwright of Stockport meeting, who has examined the accounts.

(7. cont)

b) Support for Treasurer

Nominations group have brought forward the name of Keith Braithwaite to serve as support for Jennifer, and he has accepted the nomination. We will add Keith Braithwaite's name to our list of bank signatories.

8. Elders & Pastoral Friends report:

- a) Spiritual review follow up
- b) Safe meetings

Elders and Pastoral Friends met on 9th February and both these matters were considered. A short report had been circulated:-

a) Spiritual review follow up

Paul, Bridget and Till had looked at follow up actions to the spiritual review, and we noted that Pastoral Friends have already made a good start in offering Friends opportunities to meet and get to know one another better.

Paul spoke about the idea of linking three areas for development of the meeting – Social, Spiritual, Support. This reflects the spirit of building community, or Ubuntu (I am what I am because of who we all are).

We accept this idea and hope to get people talking and offering ideas. This could also help us share our talents and even boost fundraising. We will use our downstairs space and post-it notes to get the ideas flowing. We would like the widest possible variety of things to do together – to include everyone, young and old.

b) Safe meetings

Till spoke to the report from Elders and Pastoral Friends. We trust and assume that we are in a safe space at meeting, but we would like to start a process of discussing "What is a safe space for you?" This could be about confidentiality, respecting one another, etc – and we recognise that some difficult conversations may arise.

We are happy to engage in exploring this together. We are in the initial stages, and we hope that we can build accepting challenge and personal differences into our safe space at Disley meeting.

9. Area Meeting, September 2025: Disley hosting

We have looked again at our recent practice of hosting Area Meeting at Disley Methodist Church, following an email from the Clerk of AM suggesting that we consider a return to hosting the meeting at Ring O' Bells.

After some discernment, we ask our Clerk to contact the AM Clerk about this and report back to the meeting informally before our next meeting in May.

10. Bricks and mortar meeting, 23 March

We discussed the best way to facilitate our Bricks & Mortar meeting.

We agree to use the meeting on 23 March as an opportunity to bring together our thoughts on the future of the meeting house, including:

- Financial information from our Premises committee, which is meeting on 9th March
- reference to our Spiritual Review
- input from the Garden group

We ask Jennifer, Bridget and Annique to bring the threads together after Premises has met.

Signed: Bridget Dunbar, Clerk for this day

Date of next meeting; Sunday 4th May. Clerk Taylor Giacoma