

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
Disley Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business
Sunday 4 May 2025
Minutes

Friends present: 14

25.05.01 Readings

We heard part of 10.03 from Quaker Faith and Practice during opening worship for this meeting. We heard number 9 from *Advices and Queries* during Meeting for Worship in March and number 7 in April.

25.05.02 Circulation of previous minutes

The minutes for our previous business meeting held on Sunday 2 March have been circulated.

25.05.03 Death of Leonora Dobson

Leonora Dobson died 13 April 2025 peacefully in her sleep at the age of 97 years old. There will be a private family cremation. Disley Meeting will host an informal gathering and lunch, provided by Leonora's family, on Sunday 29 June at Disley Meeting House following Meeting for Worship. Prior to that, Friends will hold a Meeting for Worship to give thanks for the grace of God as shown in the life of Leonora Dobson. We ask Anne Sumner as a Pastoral Friend and Till Geiger as an Elder to organise this meeting and to liaise with Leonora's family. We will also write a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Leonora Dobson in due course.

25.05.04 Collections

We collected £172 for Kids of Colour in March. We collected funds for Prison Reform Trust in April and we are awaiting final figures. We are collecting funds for FWCC in May, War Child in June, and Hippopotamus in July.

25.05.05 Intervisitation

River visited Frandley on 23 March and Stockport on 13 April. We ask Ann Lewis and Anne Sumner to visit Crewe and Nantwich in July.

25.05.06 Bricks and mortar meeting followup

At our bricks & mortar meeting on 23 March 2025, we recorded the following Minute:

"We have held a threshing meeting to discuss the future of the meeting house, and have heard many helpful contributions from Friends. Our deep attachment to the meeting house has been demonstrated, and we have heard many creative ideas.

We will at our next business meeting discuss how to take this forward."

Several Friends have sent forward ideas for raising funds for the upkeep of the meeting house. We ask the Premises Committee to consider these ideas at their next meeting on Sunday 8 June. We affirm our commitment to our meeting house and ask the Premises Committee to discern realistic ways forward and to report to Business Meeting in July. We encourage Friends who have not yet sent in their thoughts to send them to the clerk directly (taylor@mynameishardtospell.com).

25.05.07 Donation of library books to newly formed Ukrainian Quaker Meeting

Our librarian Till Geiger has identified a number of books and publications in our library for which we have duplicates and has suggested that we might donate the duplicates to the newly formed Ukrainian Quaker Meeting. We agree to do this and to pay for the required postage from our library budget. Depending on costs, we may also ask Friends to make monetary contributions.

25.05.08 Safe spaces

We met in small groups to reflect briefly on the following statement from Elders and Pastoral Friends on the subject of 'safe spaces', something which arose from our Spiritual Review in November of last year:

We want our meeting to be a safe space for ourselves and all comers. Are you clear what makes our meeting a safe place for you? Sharing intimate ministry makes us vulnerable and requires mutual respect of each other in all matters spiritual, psychological and physical. What can we do to be aware of everyone's needs to insure that they feel safe and upheld by our community?

Our reflections included the sense of safety we feel in our presence amongst one another and in our space, special care for newcomers, love, listening, respect and boundaries with regard to what we share as well as physical space, the vulnerability required when we take risks, including sharing when we feel *unsafe*, the safety to reflect on our own assumptions which may be harmful, the confidence we have in disagreeing agreeably, and the loving support when we need help from Pastoral Friends and Elders.

Bridget Dunbar has offered to compile everyone's written contributions. We ask Elders and Pastoral Care to consider what next steps to take both with regard to sharing these

ideas and to moving forward with affirming the importance of safety at Meeting and creating an even safer space for everyone.

25.05.09 Friends donating services to Meeting

An idea has been put forward to have Friends provide their talents and services in return for Friends' donations to the Meeting House. This has been done before successfully. This might be conducted in Friends' homes or we might meet at the meeting house. In addition to raising funds it may sometimes create opportunities to bring Friends together to get to know each other better. We ask Elders and Pastoral Friends to consider this idea. We ask Friends to get in touch with Pastoral Care with any offerings.

25.05.10 Swarthmore Lecture live 24 May

The Swarthmore Lecture at Britain Yearly Meeting is being livestreamed on Saturday 24 May 19:00-20:15 on Woodbrooke's YouTube channel. The lecture, by Emily Provance, is entitled *The Meaning of Quaker Community*. "In her lecture Emily will engage with the challenge of how people can live and cooperate in community, especially when those communities are not ones that we have chosen."

Pending availability of the meeting house, Véronique Pin-Fat has offered to coordinate a gathering at the meeting house to view the live stream.

Edit after Meeting: The meeting house is available for this event.

25.05.11 Quaker Week

Friends are informed that Quaker Week is 27 September - 5 October 2025, with World Quaker Day on 5 October. The theme will be Love your neighbour with the supporting Bible passage Galatians 5:14: 'For the whole law can be summed up in this one command: "Love your neighbour as yourself."'

25.05.12 Reps for AM @ Frandley

We ask Ann Lewis and Anne Sumner to represent Disley at East Cheshire Area Meeting in Frandley on Sunday 11 May 1:45pm.

(signed) Taylor Giacoma, Current Clerk

Date of next meeting: Sunday 6 July - Clerk: Keith Braithwaite

Upcoming Dates:

Sunday	11 May	10:00am	Walking Meditation
Sunday	11 May	1:45pm	Area Meeting @ Frandley preceded by lunch
Friday	16 May	7:30pm	MfW on Zoom
Saturday	17 May	Morning (TBD)	Visit to Edale Methodist Chapel
Sunday	18 May	After MfW	Meeting for Learning “Maintaining Hope”
Friday- Mon	23 May- 26 May	Throughout	Britain Yearly Meeting @ Friends House and online
Saturday	24 May	7:00pm	Viewing of the Swarthmore Lecture (streamed) @meeting house
Sunday	1 June	After MfW	Fun in the Garden Day
Friday	20 June	7:30pm	MfW on Zoom
Saturday	28 June	TBD	Refugee Day
Sunday	29 June	After MfW	Memorial for Leonora Dobson
Sunday	6 July	After MfW	Meeting for Worship with a Concern for Business