

Draft Minutes

Meeting for Worship for Business
Disley Quaker Local Meeting
7 December 2025

25/12/1 Opening Worship

During our opening worship, Quaker Faith and Practice 21.25 was read:

Perhaps the most neglected of all the advices is that we should live adventurously. If there is one wish I would pray the Spirit to put into our Christmas stockings, it is warmth, openness, passion, a bit of emotion that doesn't mind making a fool of itself occasionally.

Gerald Priestland, 1977

25/12/2 Minutes of our last meeting for business

The minutes of our last meeting for worship for business on 2 November 2025 were circulated to Friends.

25/12/3 Nominations

Our nominations committee has brought to us the following names and, being acceptable, we appoint:

Till Geiger to serve as clerk from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026.

Bridget Dunbar and Ann Lewis to serve jointly as notices clerk from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2026

River ~ to serve as Meeting Treasurer from 1 March 2026 to 31 December 2028. Jennifer Dale agrees to continue serving as Treasurer until this time. Jen will work with River in January and February to transition the role.

Jennifer Dale to serve as a member of Premises Committee from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028.

We note that Jan Vulliamy was nominated and appointed by Area Meeting (ECAM minute 25.11.07) to serve as elder from 1 January 2026 to 31 December 2028.

Our Nominations Committee will continue its search for an Assistant Clerk and one further elder. The Nominations Committee might discuss with the clerk the possible alternative of clerk support group.

We thank our Nominations Group for their hard work on our behalf.

25/12/4 East Cheshire Area Meeting at Disley, 12 September 2026

We decide to hold the Area Meeting at Disley on 12 September 2026 at the Community Centre in Disley.

25/12/5 Timing of Meeting

We have received a paper from River ~ about the timing of meeting.

We have considered this proposal to change the time of Meeting for Worship from 10:30am to 11:00am. A range of issues have been raised, from public transport availability to the difficulty of balancing Quaker life with home life. Potential difficulty for our wardens has also been raised. Alternatives suggested included having an even earlier start, as well as possibly having coffee and/or subsequent meetings before MfW rather than after.

We have not reached unity on this matter. We ask our elders and pastoral Friends to consider this matter and return to us with questions we should consider when we return to this matter by our business meeting in March at the latest.

25/12/6 Annual Duties

We have received a request from Area Meeting to confirm that we have carried out our annual duties (ECAM minutes 25.11.19 and 25.11.20).

We have held the regular and right holding of Meetings for Worship, regularly read from the Advices and Queries, and read the Epistle from Britain Yearly Meeting. We have held regular meetings for church affairs in right ordering and have complied with the requirements of the Data Protection Act.

Our clerk has repeatedly reminded Friends of their responsibility for the right ordering of their outward affairs. This involves personal consideration of the proper acquisition and use of income, the stewardship of money held for others, conduct in business, and the importance of making and from time to time reviewing their wills. If contemplating making legacies to the Society, its committees or associated bodies, Friends are advised to take advice from experienced Friends, and to consult the Quaker website or to contact Friends House.

We ask our clerk for this time to report to AM clerk in time for our January Business Meeting that he has brought this to the attention of our meeting.

It may also be appropriate for Friends to make known their funeral wishes in some suitable manner. Friends are also reminded that should any help be required towards the amicable settlement of disputes, the Clerk to Elders, Clerk to Pastoral Friends and Area Meeting Clerk have been asked to act together to find a suitable Friend or Friends to give their help.

25/12/7 Contribution to Britain Yearly Meeting

We have received a paper from our Treasurer suggesting we contribute £6000 to Britain Yearly Meeting. The paper is attached to these minutes.

We decide to send £6000 to Britain Yearly Meeting.

25/12/8 Reports

We have received reports from Elders and Pastoral Friends, the Premises Committee, the Garden Group, Children’s Meeting and the Library. The reports are attached to these minutes.

Friends found the reports helpful to know the important work done by various groups for the meeting. We thank Friends for their reports.

We are grateful for all the work done by Friends for us all.

25/12/9 Badges

Our elders and pastoral Friends have agreed that we should have badges for Friends to help those who struggle to recognise faces and remember names. Our clerk brought to meeting the question what type of badges we might use.

Some Friends voiced their opposition to the adoption of badges, while other Friends were happy to wear large badges with their names. Some Friends noted that the wearing of badges would help them.

The meeting asked the clerk to come back to meeting with a suggestion about this matter as elders and pastoral Friends have agreed their adoption.

25/12/10 Collections

We received a report from Ben Evens about our recent collections which we attach to these minutes. In recent months we have collected:

June 2025	War Child	£200.00
July	Magic Breakfast	£141.00
August	Quaker Mental Health Fund	£207.22
September	Rights for Russia	£202.22
October	Housing Justice	£214.22

November	Every Casualty Counts	Not yet available
November	Quaker Roots	Not yet available

After discernment, we have decided to collect for Solidarity Yard Jamaica in January, Medical Aid for Palestine in February and Quaker Tapestry in March 2026.

Ben Evens will seek new suggestions for collections for April to June 2026 in February 2026.

25/12/11 Worshipping Arrangements for the Holidays

We have agreed to cancel the online meeting for worship on the third Friday in December on this occasion. We ask the Friends who want to gather for a short meeting of worship followed by mince pies on 25 December to let the clerk know who will seek to put Friends in touch with one another. Such a meeting for worship can only be held if a key holder is willing to attend to open and lock the meeting house.

25/12/12 Closing Worship

We have closed our meeting for worship for business with a few minutes of closing worship.

Our clerk has signed these minutes

Till Geiger

Clerk for this time