

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS  
CHEADLE HULME MEETING  
**Sunday 5 November 2017**

Friends present: 12

1. **Readings.** Paragraph 6 of *Advices and Queries* has been read in Meeting for Worship.
2. **Intervisitation.** Susan Clarke has visited Crewe and Nantwich meeting during October.
3. **East Cheshire Meeting, November Business Meeting.** We appoint Peter Eccles and Susan Clark to attend this meeting at Stockport on Sunday 12 November.
4. **Annual report for 2016.** Further to Minute 4 of our last meeting, the clerks have offered a draft annual report for 2016. We approve this report after amendment in this meeting and it is attached to these minutes.
5. **Singing after meeting.** We agree to have singing after meeting for worship on Sunday 17 December, led by Taylor Giacom. This will be our meeting for learning in December.
6. **Meetings for Learning.** Further to Minute 8 of our last meeting, we note that Michael Hennessey has agreed to facilitate a consideration of the Quaker business method on Sunday 11 February.
7. **Premises Committee.** The decoration previously agreed has now been done apart from some minor snagging. Susan Clark has presented a proposal for a new carpet for the meeting room and a new floor covering for the foyer. It has not yet been possible to identify a suitable carpet for the meeting room. We agree in principal to replace the carpets in the meeting room and the foyer and will confirm this after meeting one Sunday when the cost is known.
8. **Children and Young People's Committee.** Jackie Barker has informed us that she wishes to be released from service on the Area Meeting Children and Young People's Committee. This is an Area Meeting appointment but it is for us to forward a nomination of someone else to serve. We ask our Nominations Committee to look for someone to serve.
9. **Newsletter.** The position of newsletter correspondent was left open at the close of our September business meeting, as the friend asked was awaiting more information about other responsibilities. We note that this position is still vacant and ask Nominations to bring forward a name to our December business meeting.
10. **Cards for prisoners of conscience.** Further to Minute 11 of our last meeting, the session to write cards will be held after meeting on Sunday 10 December.

- 11. Fundraising lunch.** Further to Minute 12 of our last meeting, this lunch took place last Sunday and £117.70 (£147.12 with Gift Aid) was raised for the Quaker and Local Projects Fund. It was a good occasion and we thank Peter for organising it and for providing soup, bread, and cheese.
- 12. Exchange of Christmas cards.** We will have our usual exchange of Christmas cards, when Friends are encouraged to bring a Christmas card to the meeting and then to take one away, on Sunday 24 December.
- 13. Bath Meeting House appeal.** We agree to send £60 to this appeal.
- 14. Dates of future business meetings.** We agree not to have a business meeting at the beginning of January 2018. Our new clerk is not available on Sunday 4 February and so agree to have a business meeting on Sunday 21 January instead. We will have our meeting for learning, previously agreed to be held on the third Sunday of the month, on the 28<sup>th</sup> instead.
- 15. Leaflets in the entrance hall.** Following the recent decorating, the leaflets previously in the entrance hall have been tidied away. Though some are now in the space, this is just a temporary measure. We have acquired a great deal of information and need to select carefully that which we put in this space. We ask elders and overseers to see to it that the right information is presented, and to suggest how this might be best maintained.

(signed) Taylor Giacomina and Peter J Eccles, co-clerks

**Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Cheadle Hulme Meeting**

Annual Report for the year ending 31 December 2016

Cheadle Hulme Meeting is not a large one. Normally there are about fourteen Friends at meeting for worship on a Sunday and the meeting community consists of about twenty people. Some time ago we adopted the practice of having a time of reflection on the meeting for worship at its close. In January we reviewed this practice as there had been a suggestion that this detracted from the meeting for worship. We recognized that the time immediately following meeting for worship is a precious space that should be held in the same quiet, centred nature as meeting for worship. We were concerned that, with the best intentions, this time sometimes had become more of a conversation and less of a worship-sharing session. We agreed that contributions should be shared in a worship-sharing manner.

Apart from meeting for worship we find that the most convenient time for other meetings is following meeting on a Sunday although we are conscious that this does exclude some people. Through the year we continued the monthly worship sharing sessions reflecting on our reading of *Quaker Faith and Practice*. Many meetings are doing this as part of the consideration of whether a new edition is needed. Other sessions after meeting were in January and in December when we met to allocate the funds raised for our Quaker and Local Projects Fund, over £1,000 on each occasion. One Sunday in December, Taylor Giacomina led us in singing after meeting. A few weeks before we had a session writing greetings cards to prisoners of conscience.

On one Sunday in March we had a talk from Michael Eccles, who attended our meeting as a child, about the Friends World Committee for Consultation World Plenary Meeting in Peru held at the beginning of the year. We invited Friends from other meetings and about thirty

Friends were present. We provided lunch and collected over £200 for FWCC. We enjoy having lunch together after meeting and had a bring and share lunch in February and two other fund-raising lunches one in August and one in November both for our Quaker and Local Projects Fund.

It has been a year of significant anniversaries: golden weddings for Kevin and Marion Thompson and Liz and Roger Perry, a diamond wedding for Alan and Evelyn Ingram, and a ninetieth birthday for Ann Lewis, and we had social gatherings to celebrate these also after meeting.

Arising out of our meeting review the previous year we began a monthly Thursday evening meeting for worship in March and this continued for the rest of the year. Attendance was small but the meeting was valued by those who came. On one occasion we were pleased to welcome some people from other churches.

Early in the year we considered a proposal to set up small groups, meeting for worship sharing and fellowship, to help build and sustain the community of the meeting. There were some hesitations about this, wondering whether the formal organisation of such groups could be divisive but in the end we agreed to go ahead and two such groups have been meeting, one a daytime meeting and the other in the evenings.

In September we had a meeting Away Day at Whaley Hall when nine Friends had an enjoyable day together and spent some time looking at the Yearly Meeting document *Our faith in the future*, which is intended to provide a framework for local and national Quaker work.

During the year we have shared our concerns regarding preparing for the European Union referendum in June, and the situation of refugees and asylum seekers. There seemed to be sufficient events taking place locally in preparation for the referendum and so did not pursue the idea of arranging something. Regarding refugees and asylum seekers we encouraged Friends to write to their MPs expressing concern about government policies, some of us supported the work of Stockport Friends with local refugees, and we provided financial support for the Stockport Refugee Support Group.

We are part of East Cheshire Area Meeting whose major project for the year was *War and conscience: choices then and now*, reflecting on the experience of conscientious objectors in the first world war. There was an exhibition at Macclesfield early in the year and alongside that there was a performance of the dramatic production *Out of the silence* which several Friends attended. The other major part of this project was a poetry writing programme in local schools which led to the publication *Worn with pride* of poems by local children. We provided copies of the book to local schools and this initiative was taken up by the Area Meeting. Taylor Giacomina composed a musical piece *Cowards* making use of some of the poems and this was performed at the Northwest Regional Gathering of Friends in Wilmslow, at the book launch in Macclesfield and at a Stockport for Peace event at the end of the year.

We continue our involvement with Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme. In the spring we hosted one of the Lenten Bread and Cheese lunches in aid of Christian Aid and Friends took part in the sponsored walk, the sponsored swim and the house to house collection.

We do sometimes struggle to find people to do some of the jobs which need doing. Maintaining the building can be a challenge, but this year we replaced the hearing loop and had a downspout repositioned in the hope of preventing a recurrence of the flood which took place in kitchen – while the wardens were away on holiday! Preparing this report shows us that we achieve more than we sometimes imagine and provides an opportunity to celebrate this.