

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS**  
**CHEADLE HULME MEETING**  
**Sunday 02 December 2018**

Friends present: 6

**18.12.01 Readings**

Paragraphs 8 and 32 from *Advices and Queries* have been read in Meeting for Worship.

**18.12.02 Testimony to the Grace of God as Shown in the Life of Alan Ingram**

Alan Ingram died on Friday 2 November 2018 at the age of 87. There will be no funeral for the time being as Alan's body has been accepted by the University of Manchester Medical School. A well-attended memorial meeting for worship was held at Grove Lane Baptist Church in Cheadle Hulme on Friday 23 November.

John Alan Ingram was born on 18 April 1931 in North Harrow. His mother was a Baptist and Alan grew up in the Baptist church. When studying in Exeter he started to explore his faith with fellow students becoming involved in the Student Christian Movement. He encountered Quakers and began attending Quaker Meeting which he continued to do for the rest of his life. On graduation Alan registered as a conscientious objector and undertook alternative service in social work in Liverpool where he joined the Society of Friends. Following this he worked for the Family Service Unit in London. In London he again met Evelyn whom he had known in Exeter, they became close and in due course they married. They moved to Edinburgh where Alan undertook training in psychiatric social work. Alan and Evelyn attended Edinburgh Meeting. They subsequently lived in Leamington, attending Warwick Meeting, then Salisbury and Northampton. Finally, they moved to Bramhall at the end of 1970 as Alan had been appointed to an academic post at the University of Manchester, both teaching and undertaking psychiatric social work. Ruth had been born in Leamington and Sue in Salisbury and the whole family soon settled into Cheadle Hulme Meeting and Cheshire Monthly Meeting.

In the subsequent 48 years Alan and Evelyn have been at the heart of Cheadle Hulme Meeting. They have welcomed us to their home and garden for social gatherings on innumerable occasions making sure that each of us felt welcome. For many years they organized outings for walks in the countryside with a variety of walks to suit the abilities of everyone. Both Alan and Evelyn have undertaken many roles in the Cheadle Hulme Meeting and more widely. At various times Alan has been clerk, treasurer and elder, and has also been a representative on Meeting for Sufferings and has taken a particular interest in the work of The Retreat, the Quaker mental hospital in York. Alan and Evelyn have both been involved in Churches Together in Cheadle Hulme and Christian Aid. For many years they helped with the Christmas Day lunch for people living on their own organised by Grove Lane Baptist Church.

The commitment and responsibilities of membership of the Society of Friends were important to Alan. He attended Monthly/Area Meeting regularly and also Yearly Meeting, and enjoyed visiting other meetings in the Area Meeting. If we were dealing with a difficult issue at Area Meeting, Alan could be relied upon for considered ministry of great integrity. If he was out of step with the direction the meeting was taking, he was faithful in sharing his leading even

if this was difficult but also respected the leadings of others and sought to help the meeting find unity.

Many of us have benefitted from Alan's support and friendship. On Sunday mornings, he enjoyed acting as doorkeeper, warmly welcoming each person as they arrived at meeting and taking particular care of enquirers and visitors. He took a real interest in us all, sharing in the joys and sorrows of our lives. In retirement Alan was able to develop his love of music, singing with the Cavendish Singers and playing the recorder with various groups. We had recorder music at his memorial meeting. He was a keen gardener and loved the countryside, birds and flowers. Alan and Evelyn enjoyed travel, visiting a wide range of adventurous places often associated with visits to or from Sue following her move to New Zealand. They sought out any Friends Meetings in the places they visited. We enjoyed hearing about these travels.

There is not usually a lot of spoken ministry in Cheadle Hulme Meeting for Worship and for many years we have been grateful for the gift of Alan's spoken ministry which has sustained us all. Although he could sometimes be a little hesitant in everyday speech, Alan had a real gift for spoken ministry of great depth, clarity and conciseness. He spoke from the heart and often spoke of the meaning he found in Jesus's life and teaching.

Alan was active in Cheadle Hulme Meeting to the end. On the Sunday before he died, he acted as door-keeper, he ministered in meeting for worship, referring to Jesus's teaching, and then at the end of meeting he made the tea and coffee. Martha and Mary in one. It is hard to imagine our meeting without him; we will miss him in so many ways.

We give thanks for the Grace of God as shown in the life of Alan Ingram.

This minute to be forwarded to Area Meeting.

### **18.12.03 Thanks to Peter Eccles**

We thank Peter Eccles for so beautifully capturing the Grace of God as shown in the life of Alan Ingram in our minute 18.12.02.

### **18.12.04 November Area Business Meeting: Sanctuary**

Further to Area Meeting Minute 18.11.12, as well as our minutes 18.06.04 and 18.11.06, we remain concerned about the refugees seeking sanctuary in our country, and yet do not feel we know just how to help. Many individuals within the Meeting feel they don't have the energy to reach out into the unknown, seeking those who need help, and yet feel certain that if those who needed help came to them, help would be given. It is this uncertainty that seems to hold us back. Disley Meeting seems to have made links with those who need help, and Friends are encouraged to offer support there if they feel able to. We will continue to support the Stockport Refugee Support Centre, and in the new year Evelyn Ingram will reach out to them directly to see what we might do. Geoffrey Clifton will reach out to Stockport Homes. We remain committed to this concern and in prayerful listening for the pleas from those who may need our help.

### **18.12.05 November Area Business Meeting: Hospitality at Cheadle Hulme**

We hosted and catered for Area Meeting in November, providing finger food, coffee, and tea. We reflected on our provision of these things and concluded that the Catering Committee did a very good job of making things run smoothly and we thank them, though we think next

time we could make two improvements: 1. For Friends coming along from other Meetings, we might provide a jug of water and some cups at the hatch and 2. We should serve coffee and tea after Area Meeting as well, particularly if it is a lengthy meeting. We also reflected on the fact that it is very challenging for our Meeting to serve as an Area Meeting venue on Sundays, due to space as well as the timing of our Meeting for Worship, and we would prefer to host on a Saturday. This minute to be forwarded to Area Meeting.

#### **18.12.06 Quaker Stories**

Further to minute 18.11.09, we agree to hold a series of talks on Quaker stories at around the time of half term in the springtime, once the evenings are a bit lighter. Evelyn Ingram has agreed to coordinate these talks and asks that preparations begin at a Business Meeting in the new year.

#### **18.12.07 Warwick Open Garden Project**

We agree to send £60 to the Warwick Open Garden Project appeal.

#### **18.12.08 Quaker and Local Projects Fund**

We agree to meet after meeting for worship on 16 December to consider the distribution of the Quaker and Local Projects Fund. Rachel Mulliner will distribute the information for consideration.

#### **18.12.09 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 23 December.

#### **18.12.10 Date of Next Business Meeting**

We agree not to have a business meeting at the beginning of January 2019. We will hold our next Business Meeting on Sunday 3 February 2019 following Meeting for Worship.

#### **18.12.11 Thanks for our Clerk and Assistant Clerk**

We give thanks to Taylor Giacomini, Clerk and Evelyn Ingram, Assistant Clerk, for their service.

Signed,

Taylor Giacomini, Clerk