

STOCKPORT MEETING

LOCAL MEETING

Sunday 13 January 2019

Minutes

1. Reading

Quaker Faith and Practice 19.61 has been read.

2. Area Meeting

Area Meeting at will be held at Stockport on 26 January. Our representative Elder will be Margaret Moss who will report back to us.

3. Matters arising from previous minutes

- a. Minute 9 – Fossil fuel divestment - The Clerk contacted councillor John Pantall but received no response.
- b. Minute 10 - Inter-faith contacts. The Clerk contacted raj bharath Patta who reminded him of a meeting to be held on 16 November. The Clerk was not able to attend this and since then there has been no further contact. There is a further meeting on the theme of Indian caste groups on 29 January. Several Stockport Friends will attend and report back to us.
- c. Minute 11 – Sanctuary meetings
Julia Horn is in the process of collating examples of how we respond to this and will forward them to Ann Lewis.

4. Winter celebration

We held a winter and new year celebration party on 30 December 2018, which was attended by 18 people and enjoyed by all.

5. All-age worship and pantomime

We held an all-age worship on 6 January on the theme of love. This was followed by a trip to see the pantomime "Sleeping Beauty" at Stockport Plaza. 21 children and 24 adults attended. We thank Frances McCann for organising these events. Frances will send a report to Area Meeting.

6. Reverse Advent calendar

During December 2018 we organised a reverse Advent calendar. Friends were invited to contribute items that could be distributed to local charities. One box of items was sent to Little Bundles in Trafford, which supports socially disadvantaged families with small children. Another was sent to Burnage food bank.

7. Termination of memberships

Having made several unsuccessful attempts to contact John Woodrow and Pauline Walthew, Elders and Oversees took the decision to recommend that Area Meeting terminate their membership. The Area Meeting Clerk has been informed and Pat Carlisle will speak to this at the next Area Meeting if necessary.

8. Hiring and Employment / Draft budget

Phoebe Spence has presented a draft budget for 2019 which includes provision for the possible appointment of an Assistant Warden. This will be discussed at a meeting of the Hiring and Employment Committee on 14 January. We feel that an Assistant Warden would be an advantage and could facilitate an increase in lettings. Any decision would also have to be agreed by Trustees.

The gardening is currently managed by volunteers, but we are mindful that any larger-scale work might have to be undertaken by a professional gardener. We ask our volunteers to report back to the next Local Meeting. We thank Phoebe for her report.

9. Request from David Keogh

An attender, David Keogh, has asked if it would be acceptable to bring his dog Poppy to Meeting for Worship on those occasions when he might wish to stay longer. We are happy with this.

10. Right ordering of meetings

We report that in 2018 we have when requested:

- Made arrangements for the regular holding of public meetings for worship
- Used Advices and Queries
- Received and read the Epistle from Yearly Meeting
- Nurtured and sustained the spiritual life of the meeting and the pastoral care of those associated with it and welcomed newcomers. Taken a special responsibility for the children within its care and for their parents.
- Conducted regular meetings for church affairs, which include preparation for area meeting business
- Encouraged, by appointment or otherwise, an attendance of local Friends at AM
- Made sure that the financial needs of the meeting and the yearly meeting are properly understood by its members and that channels exist for giving in a convenient way. Accounts of any financial activities have been kept in accordance with the general rules and guidance given by the area meeting; they have been examined independent persons and reported to the AM Treasurer
- Prepared such statistics, returns and reports as are required.
- Preserved records
- Supported other local meetings to carry out their responsibilities when requested and supported the formation and nurture of new local worshipping groups and occasional meetings for worship.
- Appointed correspondents to Quaker bodies as appropriate.
- Maintained a library and encouraged the reading of Quaker publications
- Formed links with other churches and faith communities in the area and where possible jointly undertaken service in the community

Current membership statistics:

19 female members – 7 male members – 5 female attenders – 3 male attenders – 1 child

11. AOB

KayT Turner has been given a glass white poppy which she has offered to us to place in the garden. We are happy to accept it and will investigate making it secure and a feature of the garden. KayT will bring it for us to look at. We thank KayT for this.



- Geoff Thomason, Clerk