



Yearly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends (Quakers) in
Britain

To members of Meeting for Sufferings

13 October 2017

Meeting for Sufferings 7 October 2017

Dear Friends,

I felt that we had another full agenda for our meeting on Saturday, at a different venue, but I hope that you agree that it was good to meet together again and to attend to our business. Please find the minutes attached and some key points to note are as follows:

- Minutes 8 and 9 refer to documents that we received for information and which you may wish to share further with Friends in your local meetings (full documents can be found in the MfS papers, or can be sent as separate documents if you email sufferings@quaker.org.uk).
- Minutes 16 and 17 are about the QPSWCC report and all the work done in the area of peace and justice on behalf of us all and then our response to the Sanctuary Everywhere manifesto. We have asked QPSWCC to look again at the precise wording of this and to set it more clearly in the context of our understandings of faith and hopefully we may be able to endorse it at our next meeting. If you have any particular suggestions about this, please send them via James Johnson, jamesj@quaker.org.uk, no later than 10 November (Guidance for Becoming a Sanctuary Meeting may be found [here](#).)
- Minute 22 gives us a nudge to begin to think about diversity in our meetings. More information will be sent to clerks shortly, and Arrangements Group will look forward to receiving feedback as and when you feel able.
- Minute 25 was about Communications and [Speaking Out](#) - we were reminded of the help that is available for us from the Communications department and we were asked to respond if our meetings have a clear view about being notified about media releases (are there too many or too few notifications?) – please send any suggestions to Jane Dawson, Head of External Communications janed@quaker.org.uk

- And during our notices, we were introduced to the postcards to send to those who may consider service on central bodies and a link to these may also be found [here](#)

Thank you to all friends in the Manchester area and the staff at the Meeting House who enabled us to meet outside London. We would like to know about your experience of this experiment and so please fill in our brief questionnaire about it ([here](#)).

And thank you for your service and attention to these matters.

Peace be with you,

Anne



Anne Ullathorne
Clerk, Meeting for Sufferings

Additional note:

There was a brief item this time about Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA). The QCEA General Assembly was meeting in Brussels over the same weekend that Meeting for Sufferings was held in Manchester. Our QCEA representative has sent the following link to the General Assembly's video epistle:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xvZBBRjiYVM>

The following papers are included in this mailing:

- Minutes of the Meeting held 7 October 2017

Meeting for Sufferings: are we addressing our functions?

Quaker faith and practice section 7.02 sets out 19 functions of Meeting for Sufferings (a-s). Arrangements Group hopes it will be helpful to monitor how the agenda items enable us to address these functions. Business at this meeting related to 7 of the functions. (We also hope that function i) *to foster communication throughout the yearly meeting* is addressed by representatives before and after every meeting.)

a) To set the priorities for the centrally managed work

- MfS 17/10/016, Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee Annual Report
- MfS 17/10/17, Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto

b) To issue public statements on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting

- MfS 17/10/24, Use of the phrase 'Quakers in Britain'
- MfS 17/10/25 BYM Communications and Speaking Out

c) To receive regular interim reports from BYM trustees

- MfS 17/10/23, BYM Trustees' report

g) To deliberate on how best to support the spiritual life of the yearly meeting and to further the development of its visionary and prophetic role

- MfS 17/10/016, Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee Annual Report
- MfS 17/10/17, Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto
- MfS 17/10/20, Yearly Meeting Gathering 2017
- MfS 17/10/22, Diversity and Inclusion

h) To keep under review and to test as appropriate the existing and new concerns referred to it by area meetings and others

- MfS 17/10/17 Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto
- MfS 17/10/22, Diversity and Inclusion

i) To foster communication throughout the Yearly Meeting

- MfS 17/10/07, Quaker Stewardship Committee
- MfS 17/10/08, Quaker World Relations Committee: The Future of Europe
- MfS 17/10/09, 500th Anniversary of Lutheran Reform
- MfS 17/10/10, Quaker Council for European Affairs
- MfS 17/10/13, Meeting of Friends in Wales
- MfS 17/10/2,3 BYM Trustees Report
- MfS 17/10/25 BYM Communications and Speaking Out
- MfS 17/10/26 Thanks

j) To receive minutes from area meetings (and pass on where appropriate)

- MfS 17/10/06, Articulation of 'our faith' on the BYM website
- MfS 17/10/24, Use of the phrase 'Quakers in Britain'

k) To make appropriate entries in the court and prison register

MfS 17/10/05, Court and Prison Register

p) To hear appeals against area meeting decisions

- MfS 17/10/12 Appeal Group

r) To authorise action and minutes as required under other sections of Quaker Faith and Practice

- MfS17/10/11, Ackworth School General Meeting
- MfS 17/10/14, Quaker Recognised Bodies
- MfS 17/10/21, Committee on Clerks

Receiving reports from central committees adds to our understanding and decisions regarding both A priorities and G supporting the spiritual life of the YM



Yearly Meeting of the Religious
Society of Friends (Quakers) in
Britain

At a meeting of

Meeting for Sufferings

Held at Friends Meeting House, 6 Mount St, Manchester, M2 5NS
Saturday 7 October 2017

Minutes

MfS/17/10/01 Opening Worship

During opening worship we have heard Advice 16, section 1.02.16 of *Quaker faith & practice* read in Welsh and English.

On this occasion we are glad to be meeting in Manchester and welcome visiting Friends from East Cheshire, Pendle Hill and Manchester and Warrington Area Meetings.

MfS/17/10/02 Apologies

We receive apologies from Sussex East Area Meeting, Leicester Area Meeting, Pickering & Hull Area Meeting and Hardshaw & Mann Area Meeting, which have not been able to send a representative on this occasion.

MfS/17/10/03 Membership

We have received the following nominations for and requests for release from Meeting for Sufferings until the rise of Yearly Meeting 2018:

Nominated:

Liz Eddington – Lancashire Central & North AM representative
Terry Faull – Central Nominations Committee representative
Gill Reid – Central Nominations Committee alternate

Release requests received:

Ruth Bush – Bournemouth Coastal AM alternate
Terry Faull – Central Nominations Committee alternate
Christine Habgood-Coote – Central Nominations Committee representative
Diana Jeater – West Wiltshire & East Somerset AM alternate
Jennifer Maclennan – Lancashire Central & North AM representative

We appoint the Friends named. We release the Friends named accordingly, and thank them for their service.

Visitors invited to represent area meetings/committees in the absence of appointed representative or alternate:

Jeff Beatty - Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee
Jeffrey Dean - Quaker Life Central Committee
Nigel Norrie - North London AM

Other visitors:

Eleni Burgess – East Cheshire AM
Frances McCann – East Cheshire AM
Sally Mendham – East Cheshire AM
Antony Froggett – Manchester & Warrington AM
Steven Johnson – Manchester & Warrington AM
Colin Mckenzie – Manchester & Warrington AM
Margaret Calvert – Manchester & Warrington AM
Liz Mayes – Manchester & Warrington AM (attender)
John Cookson - Pendle Hill Area Meeting
Alex Houghton - Pendle Hill Area Meeting
Stanley Lee - Pendle Hill Area Meeting
Helen Still – North Wales Area Meeting
Jane Dawson – BYM staff, Head of External Communications
Neil Jarvis – BYM Staff, Governance Manager
James Johnson – BYM staff, Recording Clerk's Office

MfS/17/10/04 Agenda

The clerk has introduced the draft agenda, and we have agreed to this.

MfS/17/10/05 Court and Prison Register

Further to minute MfS/17/02/04, we have heard that Sam Walton of South London AM is due to appear in court on 24th October, charged with criminal damage, in relation to an action to disarm warplanes in February.

Sam Donaldson, an attender at Hull meeting (Pickering and Hull AM), was charged with breach of the peace at Faslane naval base on 13 July 2017. He is due to appear in court on 12 October.

We have also heard that nine Friends were arrested in September outside the Arms Fair organised by Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) at the ExCeL centre in Docklands, London. Six of the nine were arrested during a Meeting for Worship.

On 19 September, three Friends pleaded guilty to obstruction of the highway and were given six months conditional bail and £95 costs: Hank Eynattan, Kingston and Wandsworth AM; Paul Milling, Kingston and Wandsworth AM; and Chris Gwyntopher, North East Thames AM.

The following Friends were charged with obstruction of the highway. Some will appear in court at a later date, while others have had charges dropped following an initial court appearance: David Amos, Kingston and Wandsworth AM; Susan Clarkson, Brighouse West Yorkshire AM; Richard Levitt, of Leeds AM; Simon Watson of South East London AM (also Ohio Yearly Meeting); and Jo Frew, an attender at Tottenham meeting (North London AM).

David Henshaw of North West London Area Meeting was arrested for aggravated trespass.

We agree to add the names of all these Friends to our court and prison register, and we hold them in the Light.

MfS/17/10/06 Articulation of 'our faith' on the BYM website

We receive minute 2017/05/02 from West Kent AM expressing the view that the 'Our faith' section of the BYM website is inadequate in representing honestly the diversity of Quaker experience.

This part of the website was designed to provide a very brief introduction to people with very little knowledge of the Quaker way. A new version has been developed which includes different expressions of Quaker faith. We encourage Friends in West Kent AM in their continuing consideration of how best to communicate *Quaker faith & practice* to others.

We reaffirm that all aspects of Quaker outreach are important to us and we send this minute to Quaker Life Central Committee for their information.

MfS/17/10/07 Quaker Stewardship Committee

Further to minute MfS/17/04/07, we receive minute 2017/04/04 from Quaker Stewardship Committee (QSC) regarding two-way communication between local Meetings and QSC. As noted in April, we will return to these matters at a future meeting.

MfS/17/10/08 Quaker World Relations Committee: The Future of Europe

We receive minute 2017/05/07 of Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) with a copy of its response to the Conference of European Churches (CEC) draft Open Letter on the future of Europe.

We are pleased to have the opportunity to read this letter from the CEC and in particular its aim 'to foster hope and cultivate constructive solutions' and its affirmation of 'respect for human dignity, peace, justice, freedom, tolerance, participation, solidarity and sustainability'. We note the statement that 'Solidarity with refugees is a consequence of Christian faith and our commitment to working towards a just and compassionate society' and the way in which FWCC has referred to the concern that Quakers have for the plight of refugees and migrants. The FWCC response (A European Quaker contribution) is a helpful document in its own right and we commend it to wider readership and use amongst Quakers. We send this minute to QWRC for information.

MfS/17/10/09 500th Anniversary of Lutheran Reform

We receive minute 17/48 of Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations accompanied by a paper marking the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation.

We are pleased to have sight of this paper covering aspects of Quakerism and reformation and hope that it may be useful for Quakers in their study generally.

MfS/17/10/10 Quaker Council for European Affairs

In December 2016 we received a report from our representative to Quaker Council for European Affairs (QCEA). Our minute MfS/16/12/08 asked our representative(s) report to Meeting for Sufferings every three years, and also to report to QPSWCC, annually if possible, regarding issues of common concern. We now receive minute 17/54 of Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee recording that it has received its first annual report from QCEA.

MfS/17/10/11 Ackworth School General Meeting

We receive minutes 8a and 8b of Ackworth General Meeting which record that BYM is not regarded as the direct owner of Ackworth School and that the governance of the school rests with

Ackworth General Meeting. These minutes confirm and clarify decisions taken by Meeting for Sufferings in 1998, 2001 and 2007 (minute MfS/07/03/13 refers).

This will mean that this is the last time Meeting for Sufferings is asked to note such changes.

MfS/17/10/12 Appeal Group

In October 2016 we agreed to establish a group to consider an appeal made under the guidance set out in Quaker faith and practice chapter 4 (minute MfS/16/10/16). The Appeal Group has carried out its work and reported its findings both to the appellant and the Area Meeting concerned. Accordingly, we lay down this group and thank its members for their service.

MfS/17/10/13 Meeting of Friends in Wales

We note Meeting of Friends in Wales is celebrating its 25th anniversary and we send greetings to all Friends there.

Deallwn y bydd Cyfarfod y Cyfeillion yng Nghymru yn dathlu ym mis Hydref 25 mlynedd ers ei sefydlu ac anfonwn gyfarchion atynt oll.

MfS/17/10/14 Quaker Recognised Bodies

Further to minute MfS/15/12/1, we receive paper MfS 2017/10/14 recommending groups for registration as Quaker Recognised Bodies.

We agree to register the following 11 groups for five years, with registration to be reviewed by September 2022:

External

Friends House Moscow
Quaker Voluntary Action
The Quaker Tapestry
Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE)
The Penn Club
The Retreat York Benevolent Fund
Friends of Hlekweni

Free-standing

Quaker Fellowship for After-Life Studies
Quaker South Asia Interest Group (QSAIG)
Friends Community Development Trust (Uganda)

Linked

Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT)

We agree to register the following group for two years, with registration to be reviewed by September 2019:

Emergent

Quaker Decriminalisation Network

We also agree to register London Quakers. This is a regional gathering as recognised in Quaker faith and practice sections 5.06 and 5.07. We ask for a light-touch review of their registration to be undertaken by September 2022.

MfS/17/10/15 Meeting for Sufferings dates

Dates of meetings in 2018 have already been agreed (minute MfS/16/10/18). For the remainder of the 2019-21 triennium, we agree to hold meetings on the following dates:

2 February 2019

6 April 2019

6 July 2019

4-6 October 2019

7 December 2019

1 February 2020

4 April 2020

6 June 2020

2-4 October 2020

5 December 2020

6 February 2021

10 April 2021

MfS/17/10/16 Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee annual report

Jeff Beatty, Quaker Peace & Social Witness Central Committee (QPSWCC), has spoken to the annual report outlining the great breadth of work carried out by a paid staff of 20. This encompasses peace and conciliation work abroad, peace education at home, economic and criminal justice, and work on migration, as well as collaboration with Quaker United Nations Office, Quaker Council for European Affairs and Quaker Housing Trust. It is a truly impressive programme.

Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central Committee continues to wrestle with the challenges presented by pressure to be more active on such a wide range of issues, and with the difficulties in balancing long-term (budget) and short-term (including legacy or grant-supported) funding.

We are glad to hear of collaboration with other faith groups and the growing links with Quaker Life. We are supportive of the way the work is developing. We realise that there are challenges in balancing the demands of work at central and local level and want to liberate Friends and others to grow our work for peace and justice.

MfS/17/10/17 Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto

Helen Drewery told us about the development of the Sanctuary project and the proposed 'Sanctuary Everywhere' Manifesto (minute QPSWCC 17/29 refers). The work grew out of the concerns of Friends and legacy funding enabled a pilot project – a listening exercise in the yearly meeting – which has been extended for a further two years. Local meetings are being supported by Quaker Peace and Social Witness to join local initiatives that create a culture of welcome, and to foster their involvement in campaigning and advocacy.

The six points of the manifesto have grown from many statements made by Britain Yearly Meeting in recent times and will allow Quaker Peace and Social Witness to work with organisations such as Amnesty and the Refugee Council.

We appreciate the work that has gone into developing the manifesto and support the principles behind it whilst recognising the difficulties that may be encountered in practice.

groups. We need to be open to the Light to guide us. Change is managed best when done in a loving way and in an organic way.

We have been given some questions:

1. In what ways is your meeting (or committee or group) already diverse?
2. In what ways could it be more diverse?
3. What would help it become more diverse? What are the opportunities and barriers?

We ask representatives to consider these questions further with their Area Meetings or committees and respond to the Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group via the Deputy Recording Clerk.

We have heard today of the benefits of different ways of working in committees and groups, by using tele-conferencing, Skype and other tools.

We will return to this issue in 2018.

MfS/17/10/23 BYM Trustees report

Ingrid Greenhow, clerk of BYM Trustees, spoke to the minutes of Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees held in June in Liverpool.

The Trustees have been working together with others, hearing from the clerks of QLCC, QPSWCC and Friends House Hospitality Board. (Quakers work collaboratively.)

Ingrid drew particular attention to their approval of a MoU with Woodbrooke which forms a basis of their partnership working; and also the further 3-years of legacy funding to support parliamentary advocacy work in Scotland.

We note that Trustees are starting to think about the future of the FH restaurant and have also set up a group to review the legacy funded projects.

We thank the Trustees for their report.

MfS/17/10/24 Use of the phrase 'Quakers in Britain'

We receive BYM Trustees' minute 2017/06/09 along with a paper on the use of the phrase 'Quakers in Britain' which responds to a matter raised by Cambridgeshire AM (minute MfS/16/04/13 refers).

We thank Trustees and staff for this paper and confirm that it is appropriate to use the term 'Quakers in Britain' for public statements, as agreed by Meeting for Sufferings in 2014 (MfS/2014/02/05 Speaking Out). We note that in a few instances the term had been used inappropriately and we thank staff for now addressing this.

MfS/17/10/25 BYM Communications and Speaking Out

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, has reminded us of the Speaking Out policy which was agreed by Meeting for Sufferings in 2014 (Qf&p 3.27 refers). He has told us of some of the challenges involved in Speaking Out on behalf of Quakers in Britain.

Jane Dawson, Head of External Communications, has spoken about Britain Yearly Meeting's communication work. We have heard how the strategic communications objectives of Britain Yearly Meeting are grounded in *Our Faith in the Future* and Jane has shared details of the

coverage of press statements, and social media posts. Over 13 million people were reached by Britain Yearly Meeting media in April-June 2017.

She has explained how local meetings may be supported in speaking out by the team. Every Quaker is a communicator. Knowing that Quakers are not currently widely understood by the general public, we have been challenged to do what we can. We should ask ourselves who is the communication aimed at and do we know whether it reaches the right people?

Finally we have been asked: How do representatives wish to hear about public statements made by the Communications department? At present, these are sent out to local Friends in a variety of different ways according to circumstances. We are invited to respond to the Advocacy and Public Relations Team.

MfS/17/10/26 Thanks

We would like to thank Friends in Manchester and Warrington Area Meeting for all they have done to make us feel welcome here this weekend. We enjoyed the shared meal here on Friday evening and have learnt a lot about the work and concerns of Quakers in the North West.

MfS/17/10/27 Close

We close, intending to meet again on 2 December, when we will be joined for part of the day by members of the Young People's Participation programme.



Anne Ullathorne
Clerk