



May  
2017

# Scottish Friend



General Meeting for Scotland 11. 3. 2017  
with new Clerks at the table. See report, page 19

❖ Contents ❖

SE Scotland Area Meeting	Mariot Dallas -3
Westerly Friends at Crianlarich	Jane Mitchell - 6
Reports to John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust	
Neil Crabtree and Margaret Daru-Elliott	- 9
General Meeting Enquirers' Day Poster and Form	- 11
Creating a Just Country	Phil Lucas - 13
Europe - Where Now?	Pamala McDougall and Joyce Taylor - 15
General Meeting for Scotland	
Robin Waterston and Joyce Taylor	19
Whittier - First-day thoughts	Margaret Peacock - 23
Invitation to June General Meeting	Adwoa Bittle - 24

Please send material for next *Scottish Friend* by 4 July to Margaret Peacock, 16 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, G62 6LN, or [nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk). *Scottish Friend* will be posted on the GM website and can be emailed to you at the same time as it goes to the printer. If you would like an email copy instead of a paper one, please email [scotfriends@gmail.com](mailto:scotfriends@gmail.com), to let Marion Sharkey know. You are strongly encouraged to do this, in view of escalating postage costs - and of course you get the photographs in colour, as an incentive!

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the Society of Friends in Scotland, Britain or elsewhere.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING,  
18 MARCH 2017, POLMONT

Mariot Dallas

Let me tell you about my day. Today I met new friends and old, worshipped in silence, heard some amazing stories, learned a lot, met some inspiring people, ate delicious food, was moved to laughter frequently and to tears a little, danced and sang. I've come home with a smile on my face and have been nudged into action in several small but important ways.

This was the first new style South East Scotland Area Meeting, planned to be welcoming to all ages and to include opportunities to get to know each other better, share experience and grow together as a community, as well as time for the necessary business meeting.

Our meeting, Polmont, was the first one to host and we were a little nervous. However, as we began to plan amongst ourselves then in discussion with the Area Meeting Clerk a theme emerged and the day began to take shape. It was already agreed that the day was to include a visit from Daniel Cullen from the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva, and we decided that our theme would be refugees.

Here's how the day went. We settled into a short period of opening worship, about forty of us with some younger children sprawled on the floor quietly drawing and a baby crawling about on the shiny floor. Then, with the children still included, we moved into a half hour of witness sharing on the topic of refugees.

For me, this was one of the most memorable parts of the day, a rich treasure of stories and experiences. We heard about friendships with local Syrians developing through shared meals and children playing together. The Syrian children had to leave their toys behind but once they were given some marbles and skipping ropes, their friendships flourished. There's a pre-school mother and child music group starting up. On a less optimistic note, we heard that for some refugees arriving here, friendships and hospitality are slow to be offered. We heard

<4>

that Women's Aid struggles to keep a woman safe despite the Westminster government restrictions on freedom of choice.

Around the circle there were glimpses into stories of previous generations: Parents or grandparents were interned on the Isle of Man during the war, where their treatment was harsh; Parents or grandparents arriving here on the kindertransport, and being the only survivors of their family; Children not able to understand why their refugee grandparents believed they, the grandchildren, were so special; People today caught up in conflicts, not knowing where their loved ones are, or even if they're still alive; and cities and countries changing their character completely as a result of mass movement of people. These were uplifting stories balanced by disturbing evidence of prejudice and coldness.

The children and young people went off at this point and we heard from Daniel Cullen, recently returned from a year as a programme assistant at the United Nations Office in Geneva, working on the Human Rights and Refugees programme. One of their main areas of focus is their ongoing work on the rights of children whose parents are incarcerated. Daniel is a compelling speaker and the talk was fascinating. As well as describing his work, he also spoke about being a member of staff in a Quaker organisation and feeling included, supported, and valued as soon as he arrived.

Lunch was very Quakerly, very loud, much laughter, delicious soup, great chat in the kitchen and live guitar and fiddle music in the foyer. Then the young went off outside for a walk and we settled to business. As Clerk of Polmont I had been invited to be part of the clerking team and was rather conscious that this business meeting was on a larger scale than our little local one. However, I had been given easy portions of the agenda to deal with and as I looked up from my papers I was met with nothing but nods and smiles. This was a meeting with limited time because of the programme of activities but there was still time for necessary housekeeping as well as a serious discussion of fracking, a topic very close to home for Polmont and SE Scotland Meeting. After the business, we returned to our circle and welcomed the

children back so that we could share what we had all been doing.

The children had been using 'Journeys in the Spirit', hearing the story of the kindertransport at one of their sessions and making welcome cards for refugees in our communities in their second session. This was what nearly made me cry. The children had been given paper outlines of small suitcases and asked to decide and draw the personal possessions they would choose to take with them if they had to leave home suddenly and unexpectedly. One of our Polmont children, full of smiles and giggles, showed us and described her chosen items (including an apple and a banana and her recorder) and I realised that her great-grandmother was the child we had heard about in the morning, the only one in her family to get safely out of Nazi Germany. The contrast between the happiness and security of our child today and the situation faced by her great-grandmother was unbearable to think about.

This sharing session marked the end of our Area Meeting and we shook hands, before moving on to the last activity of the day, afternoon tea and a ceilidh. Our Syrian friends arrived and the party began. Two of our Polmont young people chaired the ceilidh, having previously gathered details of people ready to do their 'party pieces'. We had our live Quaker ceilidh band. I was in the kitchen at this point, helping to clear up, but we could hear that the ceilidh was going well. I was drawn to the hall by one of our young Syrian friends singing a beautiful Kurdish song. I tried to use sign language to tell her mum how much I loved her singing.

The ceilidh finished with a display of amazing skipping, more songs, laughter, and Auld Lang Syne, and a hall full of hugs, warm thanks, and goodbyes.

Good days and rich experiences often prompt us to action. Next time we meet, feel free to ask me if I've found the recipe for parsnip and apple soup, responded to the Government consultation on fracking and made more of an effort to get to know the local refugee families.

<6>

## Westerly Friends' Gathering in Crianlarich, March 2017

This was the sixth year of a weekend gathering of Friends mainly from remote western islands, peninsulas and mainland; this year there were about 30 Friends from Lewis, Ardnamurchan (both for the first time), Skye, Lismore, Oban, mid-Argyll, Kintyre, Cowal,Islay, and Arran together with a few from Glasgow/Milngavie and Ayrshire.

The first three of these weekends were held in Inveraray, but we moved to the larger Crianlarich Youth Hostel when we decided to have Woodbrooke-on-the-Road, as we did in 2015 and 2016. There have been many Friends from North Scotland at the event each time. It's a good time to let people from small meetings spend Quakerly time with a larger group, and we have a children's programme too; there were three children this time, with one regular family being prevented from attending this year.

The journey there was made through heavy rain and small floods, with spectacular water scenery.



<7>

Participants brought food for all our meals except Saturday evening's main course, for which we had a carry-out from the Tyndrum chip shop. The catering worked very well and there was not a great deal of excess this time.

(One year we tried to make do with food and drink that had originated in Scotland for all the weekend. Some participants found it necessary to visit the local cafe in their spare time!)

On Saturday morning the water supply to the showers failed, but this was soon put right; though some of the participants were glad they were staying in the local hotel instead.

The adults had a meditation, a discussion on how we might like to reform taxation in a new country, reflections on walking on the Camino de Santiago alone in wet weather, while the children played games, danced and rediscovered a den in the woods from last year.



On Saturday afternoon it was only a bit damp and many of the party had a leisurely walk around the village going as far as the West Highland Way, where Alfie (a dog) attached himself to some other walkers and had to be retrieved by car later.

<8>

On Sunday morning we held a gathered Meeting for Worship, and then cleaned up before departing. This poem by Spike Milligan was read at Epilogue on Saturday and in worship.



*Smiling is infectious,  
You catch it like the flu  
When someone smiled at me to-day I started smiling too.  
I passed around the corner,  
And someone saw my grin,  
When he smiled I realised I 'd passed it on to him.  
I thought about that smile,  
Then realised its worth,  
A single smile just like mine could travel round the Earth.  
So if you feel a smile begin,  
Don't leave it undetected,  
Let's start an epidemic and get the world infected.*

Many thanks to all those who made the event possible.

Jane Mitchell, Argyll



Report to John Wigham (Enjoyment) Fund:

"I used the money to fund a trip to France with my son, George. We visited Paris and Champagnat in Cruesse. We had a lovely time visiting interesting parts of Paris - the Latin quarter we particularly enjoyed. In the countryside, Champagnat, we swam and walked and talked about life as long as small chatter. The highlight occurred one late evening when George invited me to sit in the car and listen to music. He had recorded two of my favourite musicians - The Doors and Van Morrison. I was touched. Thank you very much."

Neil Crabtree.



Report to John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust:

"I used the grant to allow me to visit my daughter in Bath and to be able to enjoy some activities with her, which would have been impossible without the Trust's help. I managed to get flights to Bristol and back for a good price so we could see each other, which we have not been able to do for a year. She has only just got a small flat so I could stay there which saved bills for accommodation. A day at the Priory with swimming and sauna in a beautiful place was a treat as well as some fine meals out which we really enjoyed. Highlights were exhibitions and walks in a stately home with a special tea - historically fascinating and culturally satisfying although rain came on! I was able to reconnect with places I haven't seen for years. Back in Scotland, we had days out in Drumlanrig Castle, and visits to Dirleton Castle exploring the historical connections and enjoying the ambience of amazing gardens and the natural world. Thank you so much for this wonderful and unexpected gift, which enabled us to connect again and to be able to share some real experiences."

Margot Daru-Elliott.

<10>

# Finding out about Quakers A day for Enquirers



New to Quakers?

Want to explore Quaker worship?

Want to find out more about how we are organised.

This day is for people who know little or nothing about Quakers, and for those who have been around Quakers a while and want to explore further.

Come and discover more about Quaker beliefs, experience Quaker worship and hear from Quakers how they live their lives.

To be held on 30th September 2017 at Cathedral Halls, Dunblane.

To apply contact Gill Reid telephone 01292319050  
or email [gillreid3@btinternet.com](mailto:gillreid3@btinternet.com)



Quakers in Scotland  
Enquirers' Day  
30 September 2017  
Application form

Where is it? Cathedral Halls Dunblane  
*full travel directions will be sent*

What does it cost? £25.00  
*Bursary is available through your  
Local or Area Meeting*

Your name:

---

Address:

---

---

---

Tel No

: 

---

Email address:

---

Do you have any mobility, dietary or other requirements?

---

---

Would you like help finding accommodation? \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to apply to attend and enclose full payment of £25\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to General Meeting for Scotland and send with this form to

Gill Reid

57 Ottoline Drive Troon, KA10 7AN

Contact for queries:

Gill Reid 01292 319050

or email [gillreid3@btinternet.com](mailto:gillreid3@btinternet.com)

## Creating a Just Country - can Scotland lead the way?

Phil Lucas

In 2015 British Quakers committed themselves to give priority to working with others to identify and address the root causes of inequalities in our society. With increasing powers devolved to Holyrood, are some Quakers right in believing Scotland can show the rest of the UK the way?

Following a successful symposium hosted by Quakers in Scotland last October and attended by some 200 people, a seminar for invited participants took place in Edinburgh Meeting House on 22 April. In addition to Quakers with interest or expertise in tax and justice matters, the seminar was attended by representatives of Christian Aid, Positive Money, the Iona Community, Oxfam, the Citizens Basic Income campaign, Community Climate Action and others. Jon Mason, an SNP MSP and former member of the Holyrood Finance and Economy Committee, was also in attendance.

The seminar was addressed by Michael Keating, Professor of Politics at Aberdeen University and Director of the Centre for Constitutional Change at Edinburgh University.

He began by raising the question 'What is the purpose of Scotland having new constitutional powers', suggesting we need first to define what sort of society we want, and then explore what powers we need to deliver it.

Michael challenged the currently normative view that social inequality is the price of economic growth; that rich people need higher salaries and poor people need lower wages to work harder. He quoted evidence from academic research that it is not the case that unequal societies do better and increasing taxation does not necessarily harm the economy. Small countries can do well when there are high levels of social investment.

We spent much of the day in two discussion groups, from which the following three areas of interest emerged, which Scottish Quakers

will take forward in our future work.

1. The need to change the narrative, to promote the concept that tax is a good thing, it's our subscription to a good society, which unites the state and the citizen. Tax needs to be taken out of its separate box and firmly linked to social policy, the benefits it brings to a good society.

We need to promote growth as not just growth in formal economic activity, but growth in welfare, community, environment, land ownership, gender justice, care etc.

2. Citizen's basic income. Annie Miller, an Edinburgh based economist and member of South East Scotland AM, who took part in the seminar, has been working on basic income for many years and is publishing a book on the subject this summer. This was of great interest to participants and a concept we wish to explore further.

3. Better education about economics. Steps need to be taken to improve economics education for all of us as well as for academic students of the subject. We all need to have enough understanding to contribute to the debate. Taxation is a neglected area in academic economic studies, where radical challenges to current normative practices are rare. We were pointed to places where such challenges are beginning to be made.

General Meeting for Scotland's Parliamentary Liaison Group is grateful to the Joseph Rowntree Reform Trust, which funded both the October symposium and this seminar.

Europe - Where Now? 6 - 7 April 2017

Pamala McDougall and Joyce Taylor

This 24 hour Conference, over lunchtime to lunchtime, was organised by Action of Churches Together in Scotland (ACTS), Churches Together in Britain and Ireland (CTBI) and Conference of European Churches (CEC) and took place in Edinburgh.

It was a follow on to the ACTS visit to Brussels in April 2016 which Joyce Taylor and Pamala McDougall attended, and a conference held on 5th July 2016 after the Brexit vote. We were well represented at this conference as Kate Arnot also attended as representative of Quaker Committee on Christian and Interfaith Relations (QCCIR).

There were 50 + participants, and all 4 parts of CTBI were represented; 8 other European countries were present, including a Bishop of the Armenian Church, based in London. The Conference was chaired by Alison Elliot, the first female Moderator of the Church of Scotland.

The Conference was most impressive and an excellent learning experience, and comprised a mix of speakers, small table discussions and plenary discussion.

Included in our packs was "What future for Europe? Re-affirming the European Project as building a community of values". This is an open letter from CEC to churches and partner organisations in Europe and an invitation to dialogue and consultation. This notable document was arrived at after many contributions and produced before the UK referendum. It reflects both the historical hope in founding what is now the EU, reflects on the present benefits, crises, and difficulties and looks forward to a future community built on shared visions and values.

After opening worship, Matthew Ross of ACTS welcomed us and referred to the recent 2 referenda in which the churches were neutral but not uninterested. Only the Church of Scotland took a

<16>

position on the 2nd Referendum for us in Scotland which was to favour EU membership. He was followed by Hieikki Huttenen, General Secretary of CEC and Bob Fyffe, General Secretary of CTBI ; both spoke briefly to the theme of the Conference. Christopher Hill, President of CEC, spoke of a Christian vision of hospitality and justice. He reminded us of the achievements of the EU but also of ongoing crises, far from resolved e.g. Ukraine, free movement/migration , etc. He asked "Is anti-Europe in fact anti-Westminster? He observed that hardly anyone in the UK knows who their MEP is. Neither Leave nor Remain focused on peace and justice. Peter Pavlovic, Study Secretary of CEC, outlined the context and process of the document "What future for Europe?

The document, requiring yet more work, has key elements of a common hope for Europe based on shared values – human dignity, peace, justice, freedom, solidarity, tolerance, participation and sustainability. He also spoke of the difficulties and conflicting views resulting from Brexit but which are also present in the other parts of Europe.

We found the next speaker Heather Roy, General Secretary of Eurodiakonia, very interesting and thought provoking. Eurodiakonia is a network of churches and organisations from 32 countries, based in Brussels. Their focus is Christian social service and justice. Heather asked "What is our purpose as churches in Europe? - To bring about God's Kingdom here on earth and to have a vision for Europe - the continent and not the institutions".

The pursuit of economic growth regardless of human and environmental rights will not bring about the Kingdom on earth. She challenged us to seek forgiveness for not speaking out for not talking enough about Europe in our churches and for our complacency. She spoke of power and participation and how the focus has been about money but engagement is not about money but about our common purpose. She pointed out that the UK has not yet left the EU so participation is still needed and the question of refugees is not going



away. It is important that we increase partnerships with young people. In 10 – 20 years' time what will we be able to say when asked "What did the churches do?" A Europe based on all participating, on courage and on solidarity requires us not just to have a community of values but to take action.

The first day finished with a panel – perspectives from Scotland, England, Ireland and Wales. Questions and statements included "Are we able as churches to work together to challenge the evils of our time?" Could we now create Christian Aid? Many people want to do good but have no faith. The Irish government has been a major diplomatic influence, now seeking that nothing should be done to re-introduce a border between Northern Ireland and Eire. We need a Christ-like presence, recognising that vulnerability makes us strong.

A shared meal was enjoyed at the Grassmarket Community Project which allowed time for meeting and greeting. As Representative Friend Pamala was pleased to meet Mary Welsh, recently appointed Ecumenical Officer for the Roman Catholic Bishop's Conference of Scotland who will be our next GM visitor.

The first speaker on the Friday morning was Jim Wallace, former MP and MSP and well known Liberal Democrat. (He's also an elder in the Church of Scotland). He began by focusing on common values and the dignity of each individual for whom Christ died. Binary questions which referenda pose are too complex to bring about justice. The referendum was uninspiring and fearful and came after decades of negative reporting. Joseph Rowntree Foundation research found the profile of leave supporters to be the poorest, low skilled, no qualifications – those left behind. He reminded us that without vision, the people perish.

Bob Fyffe responded with a vision of listening to the dispossessed, of churches speaking out on, e.g. gender justice, and unity. He quoted Pope Francis on just ways of sharing; a future of peace and hope; each person having a unique and inviolable identity; and seeing

<18>

God/Christ in the other. Bob queried the vitality of ecumenical life in the UK and suggested the present format is changing towards more localised co-operation between the churches. The final plenary discussion included many hopeful statements for sustainable change, for participation by all: Ireland having re-run their referendum; a raised level of public discourse; and the churches being able to handle complexity while being able to dialogue through difficult truths, being able to hold, in love and grace, conflicting views within themselves, but with red lines.

Our final speaker Fr Heikki Huttunen said there are countries still seeking to join the EU. The heyday of great ecumenical organisations is past (this was very striking, and chimed with Bob Fyffe's views) We still have tasks to do, we still need an umbrella forum to bring the churches together. He looked forward to CEC General Assembly in 2018 "You Shall Be My Witness" with the themes of witness, justice, hospitality. Churches need each other. If there had been more focus on the fruits of the Spirit\* and less on the politics of fear, we may be looking forward to a more hopeful future, especially for young people.

Pamala McDougall and Joyce Taylor

With acknowledgement and huge thanks to Kate Arnot on whose draft to QCCIR this report is based.

\* Galatians 5:22 'But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law.'

GM for Scotland 11 Mar 2017 report by Robin Waterston and Joyce Taylor

This was Adwoa Bittle's first meeting as Clerk of GM. She began by asking Friends for their support and forbearance.

The morning speaker was Gretchen Castle, General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation. To a crowded gathering, Gretchen spoke of the diversity of belief of Friends worldwide, and of the communication challenges that this creates. All too often, she said, Friends from one tradition or the other will say "but you're not really Quaker". This is never true.

Gretchen gave a thumbnail sketch of the four geographic groupings within FWCC, and explained that all the sections contain all the different traditions – programmed, unprogrammed, conservative and evangelical. Friends in India "defy all the distinctions". FWCC has an important role in supporting the Quaker United Nations Offices in Geneva and New York.

Even in our local meetings, there will generally be diversity of belief. How often do we create opportunities for asking deep questions and sharing our most meaningful experiences? Are we sometimes so sensitive to other people's feelings about certain words that language fails us entirely? This can be more of a problem for us in the unprogrammed tradition of worship.

Gretchen wondered where George Fox would be on the spectrum of Friends current practices, from faith in continuing revelation to that of Biblical literalism? From her wide experience of Friends from all over the world, she doesn't believe there is any single tradition that he would recognise fully. We use many words to try to describe the indescribable – God, light, seed, inward teacher, ground of being. She would encourage us to use whatever means most for yourself, and be tender with others for whom different words convey the essence of their faith. We need to listen with the heart.

<20>

The diversity of Friends worldwide is a real strength, and a great challenge. Can we learn to fully appreciate and celebrate our diversity? This is the only way to world peace.

At the start of the afternoon session, the Testimony to the Grace of God as shown in the life of Christine Davis was read during worship. It spoke of the many gifts she brought to her life of service to Quakers in BYM, to Scotland and to the wider world and how her life was stitched together by her Quaker faith and her love of embroidery.

Most of the afternoon's business focused on Parliamentary engagement work in Scotland where a part-time officer has been employed who is jointly funded and managed by Friends House and General Meeting for Scotland. This advocacy work was reviewed at the end of 2016 by Beryl Milner and Douglas Rennie on behalf of BYM and GMfS and they spoke to their report. Their key conclusion was that it was the responsibility of BYM to understand and engage with the political, legal, social, and education systems in Scotland which differ from the rest of the UK and that therefore this was core work. All their other recommendations flowed from this finding.

Despite the potential for difficulties of having a devolved staff member in Edinburgh, goodwill on all sides had made it work well. A minute from Glasgow Meeting was read and while fully supporting the advocacy work it also expressed a need for them to feel more engaged in what was happening. This led to a helpful discussion about the challenges of communication and the hope that now each area meeting has a representative on the Parliamentary Liaison Group there was someone to link directly with local meetings.

The Review has been accepted by both General Meeting for Scotland trustees and BYM trustees. General Meeting has financed a proportion of the cost of having a part time staff member, from reserves but this is no longer sustainable. Although some contribution from area meetings would give a sense of ownership of

the work they could not be expected to grow or even provide the present level of finance. BYM trustees have asked Management Committee to come back by June with options for how the work can be funded for the next three years.

We then heard a report from the Parliamentary Liaison Group about progress with their two main areas of concern. On militarism in schools, the petition which was raised in the Scottish Parliament in partnership with Forces Watch has now had three hearings and at the most recent, the committee unanimously decided to call the Cabinet Secretary for Education and Skills for questioning. Meanwhile a second but separate issue has arisen round the introduction of cadet forces in state schools. GM for Scotland raised this concern through a minute to MfS last year. At their meeting in February MfS referred this to a number of Quaker bodies including QPSW.

A recent Scottish newspaper headline declared that the first cadet force in Scotland was to be introduced in a Dumfries school. The Scottish Government put out a statement the following day stating that there was no change to the Scottish Government policy of not having cadet forces in state schools but in answer to written questions from an MSP the situation seems much less clear. The Scottish Government is supporting "a distinct approach to developing cadet forces, with the syllabus integrated into the Curriculum for Excellence, rather than following the UK Government model with the school "hosting" a cadet unit. The Cadet Experience syllabus is currently going through accreditation with the Scottish Qualifications Authority". The cadet experience is an initiative of Highland Reserve Forces & Cadets Association.

The second focus of advocacy activity is around economic justice. A working seminar is to be held towards the end of April with an invited group to thresh some of the ideas which emerged from the very successful "Creating a Just Scotland" event that was held last year. This work is seen as key to our concern for truth and integrity in public affairs.

<22>

In the Sufferings Report our attention was drawn to the call for General Meeting for Scotland to be more visible to Friends across Britain and encouragement for greater dialogue among different parts of BYM.

This was a well attended General Meeting, with plenty to think about and a good beginning for the work of our new clerk who we hope felt well supported.



## John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807 - 1892

was born on a farm at Haverhill, Massachusetts. He earned the money for his school fees by making slippers, and afterwards became a newspaper editor. He responded to an urge to devote himself to the cause of the abolition of slavery. His deep love of humanity found expression in his poems.

In calm and cool and silence, once again  
 I find my old accustomed place among  
 My brethren, where, perchance, no human tongue  
 Shall utter words - where never hymn is sung,  
 Nor deep-toned organ blown, nor censer swung;  
 Nor dim light falling through the pictured pane;  
 There, syllabled by silence, let me hear  
 The still, small voice which reached the prophet's ear ;  
 Read in my heart a still diviner law  
 Than I srael's leader on his tables saw!

There let me strive with each besetting sin,  
 Recall my wandering fancies, and restrain  
 The sore disquiet of a restless brain;  
 And, as the path of duty is made plain,  
 May grace be given that I may walk therein,  
 Not like the hireling, for his selfish gain,  
 With backward glances and reluctant tread,  
 Making a merit of his coward dread,  
 But cheerful, in the light around me thrown,  
 Walking as one to pleasant service led;  
 Doing God's will as if it were my own,  
 Yet trusting not in mine, but in His strength alone.

*First-day thoughts, 1852*

*From Christian Life, Faith and Thought, 1921, part of the newly-established three volumes of Christian Faith and Practice.*

# General Meeting for Scotland

## 10th June

Glasgow Friends' Meeting House,  
Elmbank Crescent, G2 4PS.

Coffee will be available from 10:30 with Meeting for Worship starting at 11 am. Lunch will be at 1 pm and we hope to finish with cakes at 4:30.

The morning session will be led by Zemirah Moffat. She will help us consider our contemporary gender and sexual diversity concerns. During the Worship in the afternoon session we will be considering our Quaker Logo, for our website which is being updated and for use by our Parliamentary Engagement Officer. (See previous page ) Other business will include receiving the annual report from GM Trustees and I would like to find time for us to gather in stillness following the election result. This will not be a discussion, just some quiet reflection.

Please do come. All decisions made are in your name and if you are not there, well what can I say!

Please remember to bring a packed lunch. If would like B&B please contact Mary Alice Mansell. on 01505 842 380 or [mamansell54@gmail.com](mailto:mamansell54@gmail.com)

Papers and agenda relevant to GM will be circulated roughly a week prior to GM. If you do not receive them please ask Marion Sharkey [scotfriends@gmail.com](mailto:scotfriends@gmail.com) for a copy. Reading the papers beforehand helps to prepare the heart and mind.

If you have any questions or need anything please contact me, your clerk, at [adwoabittle@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:adwoabittle@hotmail.co.uk) or 07854 177 450.

Adwoa Bittle