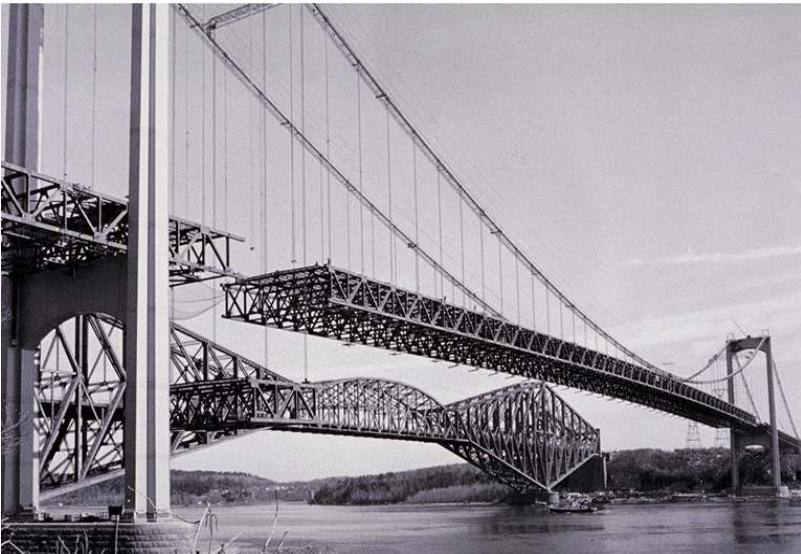




October  
2017

# Scottish Friend



The old new bridge

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In 2018 Sila Collins-Walden of Inverness will be taking over as editor of Scottish Friend. Please send articles to Sila five weeks before GM, i.e. 3 February at 27 Creag Dhubh Terrace, Inverness IV3 8QG. [Email:silartist100@gmail.com](mailto:silartist100@gmail.com).

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.



Talking and Doing - General Meeting Scotland in Dundee 9/9/17  
Jane Mitchell, Argyll Meeting

What a pleasant city centre to walk through! Quite an eye-opener with its grand nineteenth-century buildings, and streets recently improved. The nineteenth-century Friends Meeting House in Dundee is however not sufficiently accessible, so Dundee Friends had booked a modern church hall for us. Just over 30 Friends were present.

One main feature of the day was a presentation by Ian Boa, the assistant general secretary of ACTS (Action for Churches Together in Scotland - [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org)), in which Friends participate. He outlined the history of (Christian) ecumenism in Scotland; ACTS was a forum for national leaders of the churches to hold conversations on matters of common interest, but these discussions largely failed to have an effect on the "grass roots".

Bearing in mind Jesus' prayer for Christian unity: "Holy Father, keep them in thy name, which thou hast given me, that they may be one, even as we are one" (John 17:11), they now place the emphasis is on the churches' travelling as on pilgrimage, encouraging "worship, study, service and proclamation" together, even though we disagree on some things. Their publications include leaflets on education and human rights in Scotland as well as more theological topics. I mentioned the Papal encyclical *Laudato Si* (2015) on the environment as a potential topic for study.

Friends said how good ACTS events that they attended had been, with everyone listening to the others. As always there is difficulty in passing on to others the experiences one has had.

There was a long lunch break, which was good for socialising, and some of us went out to enjoy the sunshine.

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A welcome piece of news was that funding from a legacy had been agreed (matched by funds from Britain Yearly Meeting) to allow the Parliamentary Engagement officer's post to be extended from 2.5 to 3.5 days a week and her contract to be made permanent from the start of 2018.

Friends contributed reactions to events at Yearly Meeting Gathering. Again the need to move from finding common values to action was a theme.

The Parliamentary Engagement Working Group has been focusing on Economic Justice, and hopes to foster general debate on the idea of Universal Basic Income.

There was a more difficult item concerning Interfaith Community Justice. Quakers have done a lot of work in this area and have influence, but our present representative is standing down, and we need to consider what to do about this, or whether to leave the matter to Quaker Peace and Service.

A friendly day. Thank you to Dundee Friends for hosting it.

We see deeds done that are so evil, and injuries inflicted that are so great, that it seems to us impossible that any good can come out of them. - - - But you will see for yourself that all manner of things shall be well.

Julian of Norwich, *circa* 1400

Meeting for Sufferings Manchester 4 October

Robin Waterston, St. Andrews Meeting

Since Jane Pearn was prevented, I attended this meeting representing General Meeting as well as East Scotland AM. We were warmly welcomed to the imposing 19th century building in Manchester city centre which is the Friends Meeting House. It was a pleasure to meet there for the first time, and I think there will be moves to repeat this experiment in future.

As is the normal practice, an early item was the listing of the "Court and Prison Register", from which the Meeting takes its name. It was a longer list than usual, including information about Friends who had broken the law witnessing against Trident at Faslane, others attempting to disarm warplanes bound for Saudi Arabia, and just last month 8 Friends arrested trying to prevent weapons companies setting up stalls at the worlds biggest arms "fair" in London. We were told that staff at Friends House were in touch with the individuals involved and their Meetings and were giving support.

European Quakers have been engaged in dialogue with other churches about commemorating the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. I was interested in this comment in an open letter to the Conference of European Churches: "The ultimate failure of the Reformation to truly renew the Church can be seen in the way the early Protestant Churches continued to accept the compatibility of Christianity with the use of repressive force."

We were told of the work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness over the last year - an impressive range of work from Kenya to Israel/Palestine, and also work in Britain, including campaigning on economic justice, sustainability and refugees and forced migration. I find it astonishing and uplifting how much the staff are able to achieve with the limited resources available. We are very fortunate to have the services of such committed people. We were asked to comment on a proposed "Sanctuary Everywhere manifesto" listing

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principles on which we might unite. For example, "We believe immigration detention to be neither right nor necessary. Until such time as detention is ended, we will campaign for a time limit." There was widespread support for the principles, but some of the wording was felt to be too loose, and it lacked a statement of how it flowed from Quaker values. So a redraft was asked for. A number of Meetings have already started the process of becoming a Sanctuary Meeting, as launched at Warwick in August, and advice and support is available for this.

We heard some reflections from participants at Yearly Meeting Gathering in the summer – as well as from one person who had enjoyed following it all from a distance through the online virtual Gathering. One of the Minutes made a call for us to "examine our diversity". We were reminded that this is not a new issue, but that it remains a challenge. We were invited to encourage our Meetings to address the questions:

\* In what ways is your Meeting (or committee) already diverse?

\* What would help it become more diverse?

Speaking personally, I find this type of activity can easily become navel-gazing and dispiriting, but apparently "ideas and suggestions are already emerging" nationally.

We had an interesting, albeit somewhat rushed, talk by Jane Dawson of the Communications team about the work their small staff group do. She argued that "All Quakers are communicators on behalf of Quakers" and explained ways in which they can give support to local meetings wishing to make a public statement or engage with decision shapers. Through various platforms including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram as well as the BYM website and ordinary mail, they had a circulation/listenership of over 13 million people in the last three months. Press releases are issued quite frequently, and Jane asked how we would like to be kept informed of these?

Overall, it was a well-clerked and disciplined day, Quaker business methods in action with about 100 Friends working thoughtfully together.

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Update on Action of Churches Together in Scotland

Huw Lloyd-Richards, St. Andrews Meeting

At GM in September last Ian Boa, (Gen.Sec of ACTS) offered a definition of mission "going into the community, reaching out to find God's love, and showing by example....we know the truth can be found in unexpected places, that light can shine where we least expect it'. At that GM I was nominated for appointment as our Member of ACTS. I went to my first two-day meeting in mid September.

Those I had spoken to beforehand had been cautious about ACTS, saying such things as 'maybe they have lost their way a little', or 'do they/we really know what they are 'for'?' I hope this short article will show that these perceptions, and maybe some realities too, are being actively addressed in creative ways by ACTS and that it has an important future contribution to make.

We began our meeting with worship. This was deep and allowed silent prayer. I felt a real sense of solidarity with the other denominations, a commitment to our work and found some words, yes set words, of a particular prayer invigorating:

Thanks to you O God that I have risen today  
To the rising of life itself  
May it be to your won glory, O God of every gift  
And the glory of my soul likewise

Help me to avoid every sin  
And the source of every sin to forsake  
And as the mist scatters on the crest of the hill  
May each ill haze clear from my soul O God.

And so to our work.

We limbered up with two presentations. Iain McFadzean told us of the work of the 152 Work Place Chaplains in Scotland. They provide

spaces and opportunities in workplaces for listening, reflection, and support at times when workers are under pressure, facing change, redundancy, and when personal issues arise such as bereavement or accidents. Chaplains establish good working relationships with HR staff and with Occupational Health. More can be learned about their work on [www.wpcsotland.co.uk](http://www.wpcsotland.co.uk). This was a good story.

We also learned of the complex coordinating work going on to support Ecumenical Ministerial Formation, basically creating and delivering training and development toward an accredited qualification for both ordinands and lay activists. The work being done at Durham University looks likely to provide the best way forward. Peter McEnhill is leading this work and his contact details can be obtained through the ACTS office [www.acts-scotland.org](http://www.acts-scotland.org).

Then we moved to the main focus of our work – the Review of ACTS. Theos, the consulting organisation, [hello@theosthinktank.co.uk](mailto:hello@theosthinktank.co.uk) made a presentation of their work so far and led us in a focused process of exploration of the themes and issues that have been coming up in their 24 interviews with stake-holders and interested parties on the future of ACTS. Friends were consulted in this process and Martin Burnell and Alison Burnley represented us in that process. I was also asked to complete a further Questionnaire on these themes.

The picture seems to be that while ACTS is seen as: ‘a symbol of our authentic Christian desire to work together’; that there ‘needs to be a body that holds denominations to account’; and that there is a ‘recognition that we need an organisation to realise and support these efforts’ there is also a general perception that ACTS effectiveness is not what it might be. The weaknesses identified range from:

1. Structures: Charitable status linked with a Company Limited by Guarantee; the working relationships between Members and Trustees. These matters extend also to the staffing and the correct focus of effort for its resources. This could be thought of

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as the 'fit for purpose' question linked to 'what should we do with the money from the sale of Churches House'.

2. Vision and Relevance: The broad 'banner' objectives (ecumenism, working together, relating mission to active engagement in funded projects, and bringing people together in shared life and worship) are accepted, but they are not perceived as exemplified strongly in the specific day to day activities of ACTS and its focus of effort. This is often expressed as a problem of communication as much as any lack of endeavour. This could be thought of as the 'ontological question' why are we here and what is our primary task, and are we articulating it and embodying it in all the work we do?

3. Leadership: This is felt as a loss of 'energy, joy and lightness', and a sense that ACTS is beleaguered and struggling. This might be thought of as the 'empowerment question', that is the challenge of balancing the range of its activities: animating action in member Churches and at local level; taking a decisive lead on certain activity as ACTS; keeping Scotland in touch with European movements; directly funding and enabling specific social justice projects (and getting 'value for money'); and doing the 'networking' work of bringing people face-to-face to think, pray and support each other in their faith and work.

Now 'perceptions are real and real in their consequence' as Kurt Lewin once said. Theos have certainly gathered some of this qualitative material and presented it to us. We meet, Members and Trustees, again on February 28th to work with the emerging recommendations in the Theos draft Report. They have just published their Report on Churches Together in England which can be obtained at <http://www.cte.org.uk/staff> and this helps us in preparing for that day.

The meeting was thoughtful and even sombre. There seemed a heaviness in the sessions. It seemed difficult to move from the external perceptions of ACTS to a generative process of internal

energised visioning. I found it difficult to see what futures are envisaged by the Members and Trustees. I was anxious that we might be thinking magically that somehow the Theos Report and Recommendations will produce a clear way forward.

In closing I would offer a few cautionary notes for simply taking all these, mostly negative perceptions informing the Theos presentation, as the primary source of inspiration for our regenerative enterprise.

First, we might ask how ACTS might be functioning as the depository, so to speak, of a number of our cultural ailments and our need to project them somewhere. In that sense perhaps ACTS might, turning this burden into a virtue, even see itself as creating reparative spaces/events where that sense of disempowerment can be addressed and worked with.

Second, there are a number of interweaving narratives which I felt were around in our discussions which we accept at our peril. The notion that there is a tide of inevitable 'secularisation', a flight from religion and a triumph of the new atheism exemplified in the exclusion of faith from 'the public square'.

This is amplified by the dualist idea that there are somehow separate domains of the 'sacred' and the 'profane'. Then to this is added some general assumption that our ecclesiastical, parochial and even liturgical 'models are broken'. These are assumptions that will produce disempowerment and a sense of a beleaguered faith community. Maybe part of the vision for ACTS is to recognise and challenge these disabling narratives.

Third, mission is grounded in contemplation. There may be a direct relationship between the depth and quality of our prayerful contemplating together, (as evidenced by the report from the visit to Focolare by ACTS Members this last summer) and our willingness to take the risks of going to the unlikely places where the Holy Spirit is moving people to action.

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Fourth, it may be that we are looking down the wrong 'structural/procedural' end of the telescope in this Review. By contrast, if we draw confidence to take risks-in-the-Spirit from the our shared prayerful contemplation and use the existing quite 'fit for purpose' funding streams in our Programme Fund (£184,000) and our SCH Legacy Reserve (£463,000) to go to the places where the Holy Spirit is moving people, particularly young people – in peace/reconciliation work, social justice, human trafficking, inequality – that by doing so we will have a raft of activities that will then tell us, ACTS, who and what we are, and we will be perceived and valued as having and delivering on those purposes. This will not be a 'flight into action' if it is grounded in our shared prayerful contemplation and discernment.

Fifth, a pastoral concern. The Theos process is taking the time it takes. The staff group, carrying an unfilled post, are under the stress both of scrutiny and uncertainty. Taking in these perceptions is real emotional labour and needs working through. I hope the Members and Trustee of ACTS can uphold the staff and be mindful of these pressures upon them.

Sixth, I think we need a facilitated, enabled, animated internal process as Members and Trustees to generate our material in crafting a vision and way forward for ACTS. This will add to the Theos Review. This needs to be a contained event in which trust and openness about our own hopes and agendas can be shared and worked with to forge a proper ecumenism of faith and effort.

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## Reconciling Relationships: A Place for Hope Seminar

Peter Cheer, Perth Meeting

At the start of October I went to this seminar on behalf of General Meeting and was not sure what to expect. Place for Hope began in 2009 at a conference in Aviemore as an initiative of the Church of Scotland and has now matured into an independent charity with a focus on building peace and reconciliation within and between faith communities. The participants were predominantly from Christian churches and within this was a sizeable group from the Church of Scotland.

In the morning we heard by video link from Dave Brubecker at the Center for Justice and Peacebuilding, Eastern Mennonite University, Virginia and after lunch there was a panel discussion. The final session was a focused discussion on plans for a major conference in 2019 that will mark ten years since the founding of A Place for Hope.

This was an interesting seminar for me because Quakers in Scotland have a radically different concept of leadership and how decisions are reached than that in the main Christian churches. Our ways are different and appeal to us because of the faith that we follow but Quakers are not without conflict within our meetings. It can be difficult when conflict arises that challenges our perceptions of ourselves, self reflection is a skill that takes practice and honesty. I was fortunate to spend a long time as a representative on Northern Friends Peace Board and the NFPB founding statement talks about 'peace in all its height and breadth', this seminar helped to expand my understanding of how far that height and breadth can reach.

While the seminar may have prompted some thinking on my part of how Quakers deal with conflict within our meetings and examining our own beliefs and assumptions is no bad thing, I hope that I was able to contribute in a small way to the success of the day. On

another matter Rob McKay gave me a link to an academic article relating to how conflict is handled within Quakers, <http://www.religionconflictpeace.org/volume-4-issue-1-fall-2010/conflict-peaceable-kingdom>. While some people may find the academic style of this article off putting it does contain some telling insights.

I look forward to seeing how plans for the 2019 Place for Hope conference develop.

BIBLE STUDY/GOSPEL OF THOMAS GROUP

MINI -CONFERENCE at GLASGOW QUAKER  
MEETING HOUSE

25TH November 2017 - 10.30 for 11am - 4.30pm

KENOSIS - What do you do before entering the  
Silence?

We will listen to recordings of Alastair McIntosh and  
Cynthia Bourgeault on the subject, within Christianity,  
in the churches, and in Friends.

There will be lots of Silence, Discussion and  
Companionship,

a bit of chanting: embodiment and release of the  
spirit.

Celebration of Joy with Bob Mandeville.

If you wish to attend please contact

Margaret Roy [margaret.roy@btinternet.com](mailto:margaret.roy@btinternet.com) or

Lorraine McFadden [lorrainemcfadden59@yahoo.com](mailto:lorrainemcfadden59@yahoo.com)

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International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons (ICAN)

Janet Fenton, Lanark Meeting

I attended the negotiations over the last few years with support from WILPF, SCND, NFPB, Trident Ploughshares and others

This Campaign has been awarded the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, just a matter of weeks after the UN opened its new Treaty to Prohibit Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) for signature and ratification. This new Treaty stands with the Non-Proliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty in importance, and by speaking about the humanitarian effects of nuclear weapons and including the perspective of states which do not have nuclear weapons, it addresses the shortcomings of both of those treaties. It will come into force as soon as fifty states have ratified it through making it part of their national legislation

One of the incredible thing about the Nobel award and the UN TPNW, is the recognition of the work done by ICAN's 400 partner organisations in 100 UN member states . We are the drops of water in the ocean of light flowing over the ocean of darkness, we are the grains of sand that will change the course of the river. Of course four ICAN partner organisations are in Scotland - Scottish CND, Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, Medact and UN House, but Scotland didn't send diplomats to the negotiations at UN because Scotland is NOT a member state and the UK, shamefully, is having nothing to do with it.

Scotland has been represented at all the TPNW negotiations through its partners, and our First Minister sent a strong message of support. Her position in supporting the TPNW and in opposition to Trident is the majority view supported through the Scottish ballot box over a few years now, whoever is representing us at Westminster. I was very pleased that I was able to deliver a message to the initial working group and present a briefing about the Scottish position at the negotiating conference; both documents

are part of the UN record.

The TPNW absolutely prohibits not only ownership, use and stockpiling and storing as one might expect, but also sharing, assisting another state, or threat of use. There are positive obligations as well; to recognise, for instance the disproportionate impact on women and girls, and to remediate the effects on victims and the environment, so it will undermine the position of the nuclear armed states and make it difficult for them even if they do not sign up.

In the Vatican's presentation to the UN working group that called for the conference to negotiate the treaty, it is made clear that peace can not be achieved through a balance of power between enemies, but requires a profound respect for strengthening mutual trust amongst all nations.

ICAN understood the need for the participation of civil society organisations in the negotiations and campaigned for that. It also appreciated the need for the evidence of environmental and scientific experts, as well the testimony of the Hibakusha and other victims was fundamental to the success of the conference.

Accelerating climate change and environmental degradation endanger us through resource shortages and conflict, and human migration in turn increases the urgency. But all of the efforts made to project the likely impacts of climate change and find ways to reduce escalation would count for nothing in the event of any use of nuclear weapons.

The Faith Groups delegation at the negotiations understood this, and underscored "the duty to protect the vulnerable and to exercise the stewardship that will safeguard the planet for current and future generations" in their written presentation.

The TPNW will enter into force as soon as it has been signed and

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then ratified by 50 UN member states. We have enough signatures already so only a matter of months is needed for states to ratify by ensuring that the TPNW enters their national legislation. It is now incumbent on us to do all we can to encourage Westminster to understand that it is Scotland - the country where all their nuclear weapons are based - that has the right end of the stick, along with the majority of world states, and Westminster which is holding fast to an antiquated and deranged idea that nuclear weapons are not a danger to everyone on the planet and an indiscriminate and inhumane system of mass murder that could catapult to world into irreversible global warming.

Parliamentarians should be encouraged to email [info@icanw.org](mailto:info@icanw.org) and state their support for the TPNW and a commitment to challenging the UK Government to support the Treaty and scrap Trident.

Micah said "What doth the Lord require of thee,  
but to do justly, and to love mercy,  
and to walk humbly with thy God."  
Quakers ask "What does Love require of us?"  
Love is required.  
Consequences are likely.

George Lakey: Campaigning and the Quaker Faith

Alastair McIntosh, Glasgow Meeting

George Lakey cut a sprightly octogenarian figure as he spoke in Glasgow Meeting on Sunday 8th October about his recent book, *Viking Economics*. He had come to ask himself more and more what it was about the economies of “Viking” nations – specifically, Norway, Sweden, Denmark and Iceland – that led to their consistently high ranking on measurements of national happiness. Ergo, *Viking Economics*, the title being deliberately chosen to grab attention.

The bottom line, as he discovered from studying political science, is that national happiness varies in direct proportion with equality. Nordic societies have chosen paths of socio-economic development that have promoted relatively low differentials between rich and poor. This results in fewer social stresses. Readers of *The Spirit Level* will be familiar with this argument.

However, as a life long campaigner for peace and social justice his question went further. Nordic societies had not always had such healthy national profiles. In the early to mid-20th century they also had fascist leanings. What had they done that has marked them out from many other parts of Europe and, especially, from the United States of America? His conclusion is that they have developed an approach to society and economics that places the emphasis on people more than capital.

Throughout the 20th century, Nordic people have actively campaigned for social justice. “Campaigning” is the operative word. George is convinced that what is needed is not one-off actions, but sustained and carefully strategised campaigns, such as Saul Alinsky advocated in his book, *Rules for Radicals*. The Nordics came up with a vision for a fair society and they worked consistently and methodically to realise it, targeting their attention right where the power lay, including the individuals with whom power lay, such as the now-imprisoned Icelandic bankers.

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Much of the lecture was taken up with George's fascinating account of how a group of Quakers whose organisation he co-founded – Earth Quaker Action – had campaigned on mountaintop removal as a method of extracting coal in the USA. 500 mountains have been blown up by corporations to take the coal out without the need to mine. The result is local environmental devastation in areas such as Appalachia, that are already poor.

Earth Quaker Action ran a 5 year campaign, putting on hundreds of workshops to train people in Quaker activism. This aimed to force the banks to disinvest. The strategy was to target one particular bank, destroy its brand reputation because of what it was doing, and then get others in their sights. A key tool was to hold "Quaker hold ups". Groups of activists would sit down in a bank, or at shareholders' meetings, and in the midst of all the other activity convene a meeting for worship. Here was the disruptive worship of turning over the temple tables, of calling out abomination in the name of the Spirit that gives life. It is tough activism because most American Quakers and white and middle class, and the one thing that goes against the grain of white middle class people is breaking the rules.

Perhaps because he is American George had a very strong focus on winning, winning, winning. But what about the spirit in which we hold the losers? What about the love of enemies, that is central to the Christian dynamic of nonviolence?

George said that for him it is not about kindness, it is about "tough love".

His visit to our Meeting was a blessing and I am thankful to whoever made it possible.

George Lakey's visit to Perth

Adwoa Bittle, Perth Meeting

Saturday 7 October saw one of Quakerism's most engaging and famous authors entertain nearly 30 people in Perth. George Lakey has, for decades, reminded us what a powerful tool nonviolence is. In his book, 'Viking Economics', he focuses on Scandinavia and how nonviolent tactics and brilliant organising won enduring change in four countries' governance, economy and their values and beliefs about what is just, fair and possible. George told us personal stories of how the book came about and how he hopes our country and the US can take a leaf from these Nordic countries to change how our economies and societies are run. We had a time for questions which were interesting and George answered well. One question got "I don't know" which I like, as we can't pretend to know it all, even George Lakey!

People came from as far away as Killin and Crail, Pitlochry and St Andrews. Most in the audience were Quakers but we had visitors too.

Ten of his books sold including one for Perth meeting and one for Dunblane meeting.

It was a privilege to host George. He is a gentle, loving man, not afraid to share deeply. Matthew and I heard him talk at Yearly Meeting Gathering this year and were both very moved by his story. He is touring from the spring until November which is a long time to be away from family.

He enjoyed seeing the Cairngorm from my car as I gave him a short tour on a lovely Scottish autumn day.

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Parliamentary Engagement Work - an update

Joyce Taylor, St. Andrews Meeting  
(Convenor of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group)

At the SNP conference in Glasgow a motion from Young Scots for Independence (YSI) called for the age of military recruitment to be raised from 16 to 18 years for all roles requiring combat training. Rhiannon Spear from YSI spoke to the motion, arguing the case with great clarity and conviction. It was heartening that after a lively debate with passionate speeches on both sides, the motion was overwhelmingly carried by conference.

Mairi Campbell-Jack and I attended the conference for one day on behalf of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) and went to a fringe event about raising the age of recruitment at which Rachel Taylor from Child Soldiers International - (she has previously worked at the Quaker United Nations Office in Geneva), Bruce Adamson, the Children and Young Person's Commissioner and Ronnie Cowan MSP spoke. They discussed the importance of the policy shift in terms of welfare and recruitment practices going forward, plus also how the passing of the resolution may change thinking in the party and beyond at Westminster. Because defence is a reserved matter it is not a focus of PEWG work but Mairi was able to speak at the meeting about our joint petition with Forces Watch that is being considered by the Petitions Committee in the Scottish Parliament, concerning military visits to schools and she urged those present to support our work.

At conference Mairi and I met Ivan McKee MSP for Glasgow Govan who attended our seminar on Economic Justice in April and John Mason MSP for Glasgow Shettleston, both of whom were very supportive of our Petition on military visits to schools as well as the work we are doing on economic justice.

Economic justice is one of the priorities of the PEWG, discerned by General Meeting for Scotland. It is a subject which covers a wide

range of possible avenues to be pursued. For us the need is to find a focus where we can be really effective in making a difference, possibly with like minded partners. A subject which arose from our seminar in April was the idea of Universal Basic Income or Citizens Income.

This is a subject which has been gathering interest recently and you may have read some newspaper reports of local authorities in Scotland wishing to participate in trials. There are opposing views as to the benefits a citizens income would bring and it is interesting that this divide is not along a left/right split. The PEWEG has decided that we should hold a meeting to give Quakers in Scotland the opportunity to learn more about Universal Basic Income and the arguments which surround it with a view to finding out whether this is something we should support.

We plan to hold a meeting on Saturday 3rd February with a panel of people who hold different views in order to facilitate discussion among Friends. The meeting will probably be in Edinburgh Meeting House as this has the largest meeting room and will run from 1pm until 4pm. We are exploring the possibility of having a conference system in place to enable those in more remote locations to participate. So please hold that date in your diaries.

In the spirit of trying to enable cross party discussion Mairi has been looking to see if a cross party group on UBI could be set up in Parliament. At the SNP conference Mairi and I met with Angela Constance, Cabinet Secretary for Communities, Social Security and Equalities and asked her about the commitment contained in the Scottish Parliament's Programme for Government to "investigate a citizen's income". She indicated that this would probably be a small amount of seed money for any trials in Scotland.

If you want to know more about Universal Basic Income, Annie Miller's book *A Basic Income Handbook* has just been published by Luath Press. Annie is a Quaker and a former lecturer in Economics

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at Heriot Watt University. Creative Citizen, Creative State is a report by The Royal Society of Arts following a yearlong study into the potential benefits of a basic income and whether it is an essential support for people to reach their creative potential. You can find it on the RSA website. A good basic reader on UBI is Guy Standing's A Basic Income and how we can make it happen published by Penguin.

General Meeting in March 2018 will be focused on discerning priorities for the future and that will be when priorities for the work of the PEWG will be discerned.

The Parliamentary Engagement Group would be delighted to hear from Quakers about aspects of Economic Justice which they feel are important to pursue. Remember that our focus has to be Scotland and devolved powers. You can contact Mairi or myself by email. [mairic@quaker.org.uk](mailto:mairic@quaker.org.uk) or [joyce.taylor650@gmail.com](mailto:joyce.taylor650@gmail.com). Or you can write a letter to me at the address in the Book of Members and Attenders.

Julian got there first!

Friends say "There is that of God in every person", but Julian of Norwich predates George Fox by around 300 years, and this is a quotation from chapter 57.

"For in every soul that shall be saved is a Godly Will that never assented to sin, nor ever shall. - - - which will is so good that it may never will evil, but ever good."

Side by Side – See aims below.

Margaret Roy, Lanark Meeting

Last week I found myself at a meeting of this movement in the offices of the Episcopal Church in Edinburgh. Not an organisation but a movement, it works in much of the world, Africa, S.America and Europe but being particularly Christian not in most of Asia where there are other faith groups working on these issues. One project in Brasil is supported by Christian Aid, DanAid and the Church of Sweden. It is a Bible Study on gender justice, the more polite term for violence particularly against women. In African countries such as Kenya some projects are against Female Genital Mutilation (which is closely linked to underage marriage). Much of its influence in these countries comes through working with 'faith leaders' who have higher status in countries different than in our own.

Kathy Galloway former leader of the Iona Community, chaired the meeting that was attended by reps from many different Scottish church groups.

So why bring this to Scotland? Do we need it? Or, are we seeking to support women in other countries? Don't we live in a society where women have equal pay, where they have the vote, can inherit and even get free child care and support? Representing GM on WDP I have become so much aware of how women's issues are hidden. Women's World Day of Prayer, the Women's Guild and Women's Interdenominational Group (meeting representing all the women's groups in the different churches in Scotland) have all dropped 'women' from their titles. (We pray for the men too, Margaret.)

For the last two weeks, even before the Weinstein fiasco, the media was full of questions and articles looking at our attitude to women, even asking on Radio Scotland 'what is wrong with the men?' Then when I heard of the 16 days prayer and action about Violence Against Women, that has been on the calendar for several years, I

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set off with Mary Kennedy to raise awareness amongst Quakers. Why had I not heard of this as a Quaker? Surely it is well known that women bear a terrible (even a greater) burden in wars, for example sexual abuse and carting around and feeding vulnerable children. Yet their suffering is dwarfed by the glorification of the warrior. I find it very difficult to have compassion for many male refugees when I know the women left behind in the camps especially are seen as belonging to no man so are up for it with any male that takes a fancy and sexual abuse of women in camps is endemic.

Yes, there are many Quakers serving on the ground and I would never belittle their work. We have a tradition, or had, amongst Friends that we went to meeting for worship then afterwards the service started and each served in their own way, and still do.

But . . . as an organisation it seems we are into big things, trident, brexit, independence. We want to promote Truth and Integrity in public affairs. . . but where do values begin? Where do we acquire our values if not at home and in our communities? What is the role of education? It is the small things that mark our culture. It is in our close relationships that we find our Self and are empowered to be the people we are meant to be. Or can be! Recent tradition finds Friends serving in the community as teachers, social workers, in the health services, etc., places where we can nurture, support and let our values foster and enrich society. Is this still the case? How do we as a body support these individuals?

In becoming more secular, how much are Quakers colluding with the hypersexualisation and unindividualising of society? As the editor, I decided to devote part of our WSN to women's work and our current attitude to women. Climbing out of my white, middle class, professional ambience, I was deeply shocked to re-engage with Women's Lib concerns. I did two reviews, one on women after the Arab Spring and another on Living Doll, the return of sexism. I could not finish the last one as I was too distressed by the effects of normalising pornography\* into our social expectations and the call of girls today not just to play with Barbie but also to emulate and

model on her. Read my review on West Scotland Area Meeting web site. Where are Quaker values? I have a passion that the Religious Society of Friends has lost its Soul, lost contact with spirit-led even. When we live in a society that is so despairing and lost, where is our offering? Where is our Love? If you look at the results of the Brexit poll and the USA elections, they seem to say no to the 'literate' elite - you are not speaking to us. The gap is too great.

I am not getting into politics as we all see things differently. Suffice to say that myself and Mary Kennedy took all this on board and set off to raise awareness amongst Quakers of the 16 days Violence Against Women. During the 16 days we have concentrated on informing so have three talks : on Female Genital Mutilation and its effects on women and on communities; underage marriage still in the process of organising; and women & power. There will also be an opportunity to sample Alternative to Violence workshop that many Quakers support but may not have experienced directly. What action will come after the informing we do not yet know but we have a couple of ideas. Meanwhile we hope to hold two silent vigils, Thursdays in Black. This last is an initiative of the South African churches to combat the sexual abuse of women in many of the conflicts on their continent. Now it is widened to cover all aspects of gender justice.

So do contact me or Mary with your thoughts. I am hoping to organise something like a Meeting for Clearness seeking for enlightenment on the way forward with this concern.

Side by Side, statement of aims.

We recognise that gender justice cannot be achieved by individual efforts alone. It is essential to build a movement of people, from all traditions of faith, that helps establish the social conditions in which women and girls can thrive alongside men and boys.

Our aims are:

\* To shift values, beliefs, attitudes, behaviours and practices (among individuals, and within communities and institutions) to

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recognise gender inequality as unacceptable and contrary to religious teaching and practice;

- \* To help ensure that community level faith responses to gender injustice are more effective and sustainable;

- \* To help ensure that legal systems (including religious and customary laws) recognise, prevent and adequately respond to gender injustice;

- \* To help ensure that gender justice is an explicit aim both of religious institutions and governments – with effective policies, programmes and resources in place to achieve it;

- \* To work to ensure that faith actors are no longer seen as a barrier to gender justice, but are recognised and supported to play a distinctive role in securing gender justice and the rights of both women and men, boys and girls.

In order to achieve this:

- \* We will work with faith leaders to challenge and change all religious teaching that effectively (even if unintentionally) oppresses women and girls;

- \* We will challenge and help change harmful social, religious and cultural norms;

- \* We will work alongside women's groups and fully involve men and boys in redefining just and equal gender relationships;

- \* We welcome and invite the participation of all people into this movement;

We will work together to achieve a world in which

1. No-one is excluded on the grounds of gender

2. Violence against women and girls has been eradicated

3. Women and girls will have access to equal opportunities, including:

- \* Education;

- \* Health care, including maternal health;

- \* Land Right;

- \* Employment with fair wage;

- \* Leadership role;

- \* Access to market.

See [sidebysidegender.org](http://sidebysidegender.org)

## VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

16 days of action and prayer 25th November - 10th December  
including the following two events at Glasgow Friends' Meeting House  
38 Elmbank Crescent  
7-00 pm after shared supper at 6-30

28th November on FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION  
with Hilary Burrage (author of two books on the subject  
and member of Global Media Campaign to end FGM),  
and Wura Ogunrotimi ..... of KWI SA (African Women in Scotland)

1st December on WOMEN AND POWER -  
with Clare Phillips of Castle Douglas Quaker Meeting  
who stood for the Green Party in Holyrood elections,  
and Helen Minnis of Glasgow Meeting who has much experience  
as a consultant paediatric psychiatrist in the NHS.

16th December - Robertson House, 152 Bath Street, Glasgow.  
an opportunity to experience the Alternatives to Violence project

30 November and 7 December, 12-30 - 1-00  
We intend to hold silent vigils  
*Thursdays in Black* against Gender Violence.  
Meet before the Donald Dewar statue at the top of Buchanan Street.

A further talk by Eghonghon Mary Ayemere on Underage Marriage to  
be arranged.

For more details and to book contact:  
Mary Kennedy on [marykennedyfacilitation@gmail.com](mailto:marykennedyfacilitation@gmail.com)  
Margaret Roy on [Margaret.roy@btinternet.com](mailto:Margaret.roy@btinternet.com)  
Wuraolly on [wuraolly8@gmail.com](mailto:wuraolly8@gmail.com)

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## Invitation to Dunblane Meeting's ceilidh

Robin Davis

Dunblane Meeting celebrates this year fifty years since our Friends Bill and Betsy Aitken started hosting meetings in their home, moving in December 1970 to Scottish Churches House, Dunblane, where we used the Chapel for public meetings for worship.

Our first event this year was holding meeting for worship in August in Glen Artney Kirk, before having a picnic by the Water of Ruchil, reviving something we did annually twenty-five or more years ago. (Glen Artney is west of Comrie in Perthshire.)

On Saturday October 28th we have hired the facilities of Churches House - now a hotel, Old Churches House - for the day. Current and former members of the meeting, young and old, will gather to share memories, look forward and have fun together.

In the evening we will host a ceilidh open to everyone in the local community. Scottish Friends will be very welcome! We will be at the Victoria Hall, Station Road, Dunblane FK15 9EX from 7 till 10pm. Snacks and drinks will be available during the evening but the hall will be open from 6pm if anyone wishes to bring their own supper. Entry is by donation to Shelter.

We will make a full report in a future edition of Scottish Friend of the happenings that day.

Enquirers' Day in Dunblane - 30 September 2017

Gill Reid, Ayrshire Meeting

Peace

Simplicity

Honesty

Truth

Twelve enthusiastic enquirers met in Dunblane on Saturday 30th September to find out more about Quakerism and discuss what it means for them and their Meetings. Nearly everyone had some experience of Meeting but 2 people had not been to a Quaker event before.

They came with lots of questions.

Some were about Meeting for worship such as How do you know when a Meeting is gathered? What does it feel like? What do you do in the silence? When do you know when to speak?

Some were about our relationship to God and to Christianity and to other religions.

We were also asked about membership and what difference being a Quaker made to our everyday lives.

Quite a challenging day. We tackled these questions together and in small groups.

In addition, Kate Gulliver gave a talk and short guide to Quaker structures and business and Alison Burnley used the Quaker Tapestry to illustrate the Quaker Testimonies. These talks both expanded our knowledge and gave some insights from Quaker history. There were also times of worship throughout the day.

We all had lunch together at a local restaurant which gave more opportunity for us to all talk to one another. Everyone really enjoyed the meal.

Organised by Zem Moffat and Gill Reid and assisted by Kate Gulliver and Alison Burnley, the day was a great success with animated conversations throughout the day. Everyone left with plenty to think about and put into practice. We thank all those involved for their hard work in creating the event.

A thank you also to Cathedral Halls who provided an inspirational venue.

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GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND 18 November 2017  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall. 5 Trinity Place Elgin. IV30 1UL

## AGENDA

"Careful listening is fundamental to helping each other; it goes beyond finding out about needs and becomes part of meeting them. Some would say that it is the single most useful thing that we ~~part of~~ *part of QF&P 12.01*

11 am Opening Worship, followed by:

Welcome to all present

Reporter to The Friend and Scottish Friend

Record of new members and deaths

Listening to North Scotland AM

1 pm Notices and Lunch

2 pm Reading:

Nominations

Budget

Consideration of Legacy from Jenny Auld

Meeting for Sufferings Report

Parliamentary Engagement Working Group Report

Mairi Campbell-Jack -- Assisting engagement with

Friends House for remote, rural and island Friends

Tim Gee -- Sanctuary Meetings

Minute on preparation for March GM

Signing of the Minutes

4.00/4.30 pm Tea and depart

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Transport from Inverness by train leaves Inverness for Elgin at 09.00 and arrives at 09.52. Transport from Aberdeen by train leaves Aberdeen at 08.19 and arrives in Elgin at 09.50. The station is a 10-15 minute walk from the venue. Directions as follows: Cross the road outside the station and walk up Reidhaven Street (to your right). At the top of the road cross into the car park and bear right through a signposted passageway to South Street. Cross the road and take a similar passageway to the Square in the pedestrianised High St.

There should be a Church building to your left. Cross the Square to St Giles shopping precinct and proceed through the building taking the escalator to the lower floor. Turn right and exit into the bus station. Turning left past the bus stands to a pedestrian crossing and an underpass under the main road leading to Aldi supermarket. The church hall is to the left of Aldi.

Alternatively there are buses from outside the station to the bus station or taxis. It is possible to return to Glasgow and Edinburgh on the Saturday evening.

It is hoped that Friends will be able to stay with Friends in Inverness and Aberdeen overnight and travel together to Elgin on Saturday morning. Friends from without North of Scotland AM requiring more local accommodation should get in touch with Anthony Buxton in the first instance. [buxched.ab@gmail.com](mailto:buxched.ab@gmail.com) 01542 834 542

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND 18 November 2017  
Holy Trinity Episcopal Church Hall. 5 Trinity Place Elgin. IV30 1UL

Dear Friends,

Please do come to Elgin for General Meeting!

See previous page for travel directions.

Refreshments will be available on arrival and there will be a soup and simple lunch provided. Please feel free to supplement with your own packed lunch! Business starts at 11 am.

The morning session is titled "Listening to North of Scotland AM" I am looking forward hearing how Friends from our largest geographical area are getting on. In the afternoon session we will, among other things, receive the GM budget and consider the legacy from Jenny Auld. We will also have Tim Gee with us to share information on Meetings for Sanctuary. His informative session at Yearly Meeting Gathering is still on the BYM website if you would like to have a look.

We aim to finish at 4:30 with more cake!

We will be welcoming visitors from further south to this GM. Paul Parker our BYM recording clerk, Anne Ullathorne our Meeting for Sufferings clerk, Peter Ullathorne our BYM treasurer, Deborah Rowlands our BYM clerk, Catherine Jones from Friends in Wales and Neil Jarvis from the Friends House staff team. I am delighted that we can show off our lovely country to so many Friends! They are coming for a meeting to be held the following day.

I look forward to seeing you there. If you have never been to GM this would be a great one to start with! Please ask your Overseers if you require bursary assistance.

Adwoa Bittle, Clerk