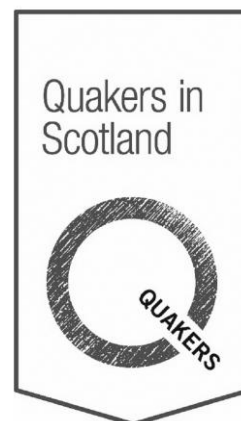


GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

At a hybrid Meeting held 20th September 2025 at the Soutar Theatre, Bell Library, York Place, Perth PH2 8EP, and by video conference.



DRAFT MINUTES

for circulation in advance

Draft minutes are circulated in advance to aid Friends during the meeting and to save time in reading parts of or whole minutes of record. Some drafts here are the introductory section of any complete minute to follow during our discernment. All such drafts are subject to the will of the Meeting in session.

25/09/01 Opening worship

25/09/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today, both by Zoom and in Perth.

The numbers of those present for all or part of the meeting were:

East Scotland AM	(in Perth on Zoom)
North Scotland AM	(in Perth, on Zoom)
South East Scotland AM	(in Perth, on Zoom)
West Scotland AM	(in Perth, on Zoom)
Visitors	1

Total: xx, including x attenders

We thank East Scotland Area Meeting for asking Connie Wright and Anneke Kraakman to act as elders for us today in Perth.

25/09/03 Agenda

25/09/04 Reporter to *The Friend* and *Scottish Friend*

We thank Clive Potter and Piers Voysey for agreeing to report on this meeting, and on Quakers in Scotland this afternoon, for *The Friend* and *Scottish Friend*.

25/09/05 New members, transfers and deaths

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting held 7th June 2025, we record the following membership changes:

DEATHS

Anne Rado WSAM died 18/8/25

NEW MEMBERS

James Shemilt WSAM
Sue Greenwood NSAM

TRANSFERS

Sheena Goulty from ESAM to SESAM

RESIGNATIONS

James Garry SESAM
Ruth Johnston WSAM
Lesley Reynolds NSAM

[ESAM = East Scotland Area Meeting; NSAM = North Scotland Area Meeting;
SESAM = South East Scotland Area Meeting; WSAM = West Scotland Area Meeting]

25/09/06 Roger Quinn

We receive minute 38/25 of North Scotland Area Quaker Meeting held 30 & 31st August 2025 forwarding a testimony to the grace of God as shown in the life of Roger Quinn (Paper A).

25/09/07 Shindig Report

Northern Young Friends Summer Shindig is a residential summer camp for young Quakers aged 11-16, mainly from Scotland and the North East of England. This year it was held for the second time running at the Field Studies Council centre at Millport on the Isle of Cumbrae, from 26th July to the 2nd August.
(more to be drafted)

25/09/08 Report on Central European Yearly Meeting

Buša Cochrane-Muir has spoken to her report (Paper B) after representing us at Central European Yearly Meeting (CEYM) held in Terezin, Czechia and online, 5th – 8th June 2025.

The main business was on discerning the question of membership and how CEYM welcomes and accompanies those new to the Quaker way, but more in hearing how Friends throughout Europe are faring in these days of uncertainty, searching for hope, peace and spiritual fulfilment. The situation in Ukraine, Gaza and elsewhere was ever present.

25/09/09 Nordic Yearly Meeting

Mary Woodward attended Nordic Yearly Meeting held 3-6 July 2025, Her travelling letter was endorsed by the clerks as follows:

Thank you for sending your, and now our, Friend Mary to our Gathering. We have had a few blessed, gathered and stimulating days together. Mary has contributed to this with her presence and also by leading a workshop on the revision of BYM's "Faith and Practice"

25/09/10 Quaker Voices on Mental Health

Rosemary (Rosie) Roberts of York Area Meeting has spoken to us of the recent publication of *Quaker Voices on Mental Health* published by the Quaker Voices on Mental Health (QVoMH) Quaker Recognised Body. This is a national network of Quakers who have a concern for mental health and wellbeing. The purpose of the book is to bring before Friends the urgent need for a renewed focus on mental health within the work of Britain Yearly Meeting. The book is a series of twelve chapters written by Friends for Friends, on different Quaker perspectives of mental health. The aim is to raise awareness within the Society about current mental health issues and their relevance to us as Quakers today. All four hundred and thirty-nine Local Meetings in Britain Yearly Meeting will receive a free copy, and Rosie has brought with her copies for Scottish meetings. The book is also available through the Quaker Bookshop.

25/09/11 Meeting for Sufferings report

Elaine Millar, our representative on Meeting for Sufferings, has spoken to her report of the meeting held on 5th July 2025 (Paper C). Minutes and papers can be found on the Britain Yearly Meeting website.

Business included a workshop on Quakers and Protest, which focused on the emotional and spiritual aspects of activism, and the importance of nurturing interpersonal relationships within our local and area meetings, where a range of different attitudes to protest can lead to divisions.

Elaine has also explained how Meeting for Sufferings received a minute from Worcestershire & Shropshire Area Meeting concerned the implications of the recent Supreme Court judgment (on the meaning of 'sex' in the Equality Act 2010) for trans inclusion and single-sex spaces. This case was brought by the group, 'For Women Scotland' against Scottish ministers.

Other business included the addition of Friends' names to the Prison and Court Register; the BYM Trustees' report; progress on 'new ways of belonging' with proposals regarding membership; and consideration of handing on the functions of

Meeting for Sufferings to Continuing Yearly Meeting. Meeting for Sufferings also received General Meeting's minute on the transition to Quakers in Scotland, to which we will return.

25/09/12 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report

We receive the report of our Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (Paper D) and Carolyn Burch / Richard Raggett, co-convenors, [have/has spoken] to it. The report includes an update on Climate Justice.

We are very pleased to hear that the post of interim PEO during Sarah Komashko's parental leave (October-'25- October '26) has been accepted by Lucy Le Roux (formerly of Christian Aid), well known to GM Clerks and PEWG Convenors through our regular meetings with and co-working with Christian Aid, and known to Friends who were at GM in March last year when she spoke to us about Loss and Damage funding. Lucy starts in early October so soon after that she will be reachable by email; meanwhile Sarah continues in post till mid-October and will keep us all updated.

(more to be drafted)

25/09/13 Correspondence and events

a) No New Gas at Peterhead: Joint Objection.

On 26th May 2025, the clerk signed a letter, with others, calling on Scottish Ministers to reject the application by SSE Thermal Generation (Scotland) Ltd for the Peterhead Low Carbon CCGT Project. This letter was a Friends of the Earth initiative urging the Scottish Government Energy Consents Unit to reject the new gas power station at Peterhead on account of the unproven nature of Carbon Capture and Storage viability integral to the project; and the fact the project locks us into extended years burning fossil fuels.

b) Rosebank Oil field

On 27th June 2025, the clerk signed a letter, with others, to the Prime Minister urging him to reject the development of the Rosebank Oil Field in the North Sea.

c) Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee

The clerk attending Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee held 26th July 2025 and submitted a report (Paper E).

d) Faslane Peace Gathering

Paul Parker, Recording Clerk, the GMS clerks and other Friends attended a Christian ecumenical peace gathering, "No to nuclear weapons", commemorating the 80th anniversary of the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, held at the Faslane naval base south gate on 2nd August, 2025.

AFTERNOON

25/09/14 Appointments

a) QiS Foundation Trustee

In order to facilitate the opening of a bank account for Quakers in Scotland by having the requisite minimum number of trustees, Susan Mitchell was appointed to the Quakers in Scotland Foundation Trustees on 20th July 2025, ex-officio as assistant clerk designate of Quakers in Scotland. This appointment was made using between-meetings procedure, under the regulation for ex-officio trustees defined in the Quakers in Scotland Governing Document.

b) QiS Assistant Treasurer

On 19th July 2025, using between-meetings procedure, Bronwen Currie was appointed to serve as QiS Assistant Treasurer for a period of three years. This position does not make her a trustee.

c) Nominations Committee Clerk

Although we released her as clerk of GMS Nominations Committee by minute 25/06/11, Anna Mitchell was willing to continue service until a new clerk of clerks had been found, so was reappointed to the role under between-meeting procedure.

25/09/15 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland

Xx has explained the process of winding up/dissolving General Meeting for Scotland both as a Quaker body and as a charity.

(more to be drafted)

Further to minute 25/06/09, we receive minute MfS/25/07/12 (Governance in Scotland) of Meeting for Sufferings held 5th July 2025, which reads as follows:

MfS/25/07/12 Governance in Scotland

We receive and note minute 25/06/09 from General Meeting for Scotland informing us of the creation of a new Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation called 'Quakers in Scotland', and asking us to approve the transition of General Meeting for Scotland (GMS) to Quakers in Scotland (QiS), planned for 20 September 2025. From that date forwards all Friends in Scotland will become part of QiS. GMS suggests that its current responsibilities as set out in *Quaker faith and practice* 5.03 become the responsibilities of QiS.

We give our approval for General Meeting for Scotland to transition to Quakers in Scotland, and agree that from the date of the final transfer of GMS to QIS, forwards, the GMS responsibilities stated in *Quaker faith and practice* 5.03, will pass to QiS.

The resulting laying down of GMS will require changes to *Quaker faith and practice*, and we will ask the Church Government Advisory Group to propose necessary amendments for Meeting for Sufferings to approve, on completion of the transfer to QiS. We ask GMS to inform Meeting for Sufferings of this.

We acknowledge changing our structures can be difficult but we are pleased to learn that GMS is excited by the opportunities arising from the transition to QiS. We hold Friends in Scotland in the Light as they go through this process of change, creating and finding new ways forward.

We send this minute to General Meeting for Scotland.
Robert Card, Clerk

We are therefore ready to lay down General Meeting for Scotland as a Quaker body and a charity.

Robin Waterston, clerk of GMS Trustees, [has updated us] on the work of trustees to wind up General Meeting for Scotland as a charity. Trustees have received approval in principle from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR) to dissolve General Meeting for Scotland as a charity and transfer its assets to Quakers in Scotland. The details are given in the minutes of the Trustees, which are on the General Meeting for Scotland/Quakers in Scotland website. The Trustees minutes of 1st July have appended the letter of consent from OSCR for reference.

Trustees do not consider that this winding up would materially change the purpose or aims and objectives of the organisation, and do not anticipate that it would cause any risks to the current charity or to the new body.

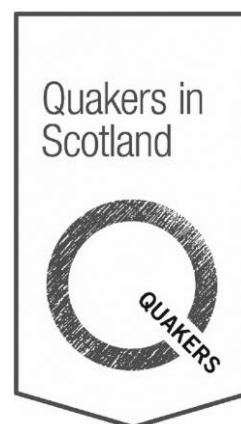
We note that whilst we intend to transfer the Quaker functions of General Meeting for Scotland today, the charitable body and Trustees will continue until the formal dissolution is complete, with all affairs wound up, and recognised by OSCR. [We extend] the service of those trustees whose term of service would end on 31st December into 2026, should that be needed.

25/09/16 General Meeting for Scotland: concluding minute
(to be drafted)

QUAKERS IN SCOTLAND

At a hybrid Meeting held 20th September 2025 at the Soutar Theatre, Bell Library, York Place, Perth PH2 8EP, and by video conference.

Draft Minutes



QiS 25/09/01 Quakers in Scotland: clerks

QiS 25/09/02 Membership of Quakers in Scotland

QiS Trustees, as the only members of Quakers in Scotland as at 15th September 2025, other than the Assistant Treasurer Bronwen Currie, have accepted into membership of Quakers in Scotland the Friends in the list appended to these minutes.

We accept the transfer from GM to QiS of the further following Friends:

QiS 25/09/03 Quakers in Scotland: attendance

We record the attendance during this meeting of xx Friends from XX local meetings. We also had xx visitors.

QiS 25/09/04 Quakers in Scotland: open worship

We meet as Quakers in Scotland as the new Quaker body for all Friends in Scotland, in succession to General Meeting for Scotland, the concluding minute (25/09/14) of which is noted. GMS minute 25/06/09 also detailed the transition arrangements.

QiS 25/09/05 Agenda

QiS 25/09/06 Report from QiS Foundation Trustees

We receive the report from our Trustees (Paper QiS A), and Adwoa Burnley and Elizabeth Allen (co-clerks) have spoken to it.

Foundation Trustees have worked collaboratively with the QiS Co-ordinating Group, with its convener, Lesley Richards, attending Foundation Trustees meetings. Trustees have sought to be true to our understanding of transparency and accountability and have been liaising with area meetings and holding or taking part online meetings to explain the process of transition. QiS Trustee minutes are posted on the Quakers in Scotland website.

Foundation Trustees first met on 17th December 2024 and since then have met mainly monthly. The first task of QiS Foundation Trustees was to register QiS as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation with the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), which was accomplished on 13th March 2025 with the charity number SC054060.

A QiS Finance Sub-committee has been set up and a bank account to be used as the Collections Account has been opened with the Cooperative Bank. An application to open an account for use as a General Account, has been submitted to the Bank of Scotland.

Trustees are managing the TUPE [Transfer of Undertakings (Protection of Employment)] transfers of staff.

The following essential policies are in place, drafted by QiS Co-ordinating Group: a QiS Governing Document; draft General Memorandum of Understanding; draft Property Memoranda of Understanding.

The following documents about how essential tasks might be carried out within the new structure are available online: Possible Eldership arrangements; Possible Pastoral Care arrangements; Possible committee structure and nominations process; Possible financial structure and organisation; Summary of how Intermediate Meeting might work; What difference might it make to the number of roles.

The online registers of QiS members and trustees are set up, and details of the first members and trustees have been entered. The numbers of members transferring to QiS now totals xxx.

Trustees have instructed a lawyer to deal with legal aspects of all transfers of Scottish Quaker bodies to QiS. He is currently working on the GMS transfer and has drafted the Transfer Agreement. This document is appended to these minutes (Paper QiS B). He is in possession of all relevant documents from the 4 transferring Quaker charities, including completed QiS due diligence questionnaires. The present situation regarding transfers is summarised here:

- East Scotland Area Meeting hopes to transfer as soon as possible after 18th October, and has agreement from OSCR to close the ESAM charity.
- Dundee Friends Property Trust intends to transfer shortly after ESAM.
- West Scotland AM intends to lay itself down and complete the transfer process in October. It has OSCR's agreement to close the WSAM charity.
- North Scotland AM intends to join QiS by the end of this year, and has minuted that its meeting in October might provide the opportunity for this.
- South East Scotland AM is still considering its position.

- General Meeting for Scotland MS transferred to QiS today (20th September 2025). OSCR agreed to the closure of GMS, as has Meeting for Sufferings.

The transfer of membership from GMS to QiS is underway, as is seeking consent for transfer of personal data. Trustees are answering Friends' Queries about this and have produced a frequently asked questions sheet, 'Further Clarifications as QiS Evolves', which is on the QiS website. On 27th August, Trustees also co-hosted with GMS an online meeting to answer Friends' questions.

(more is to be drafted)

QiS 25/09/07 Report from Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group

Lesley Richards, convenor of the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group [has updated us] on its continuing work.

QiS 25/09/08 General Meeting for Scotland minutes

Minutes from General Meeting for Scotland remain a reference for decisions, policies and procedures for Quakers in Scotland, unless otherwise updated by minute by Quakers in Scotland or its Trustees.

QiS 25/09/09 dates and host meetings for QiS in 2025/26/27

We agree to meet in hybrid meetings as follows:

8 November 2025 – South East Scotland AM (Edinburgh Meeting House)

21 February 2026 – online meeting during the day

7 March 2026 – Perth

6 June – Glasgow (tbc)

19 September – Inverness or Aberdeen

7 November – South East Scotland AM (Edinburgh Meeting House)

6 March 2027 Glasgow

We ask South East Scotland Area Meeting to provide Friends to act as elders for our next meeting.

We ask East Scotland Area Meeting to provide the name of a Friend to report on our next meeting.

QiS 25/09/10 Appointments carried over from General Meeting for Scotland

As part of the transition arrangements, General Meeting for Scotland agreed to transfer all its appointments other than those of GMS Trustees and Treasurer, to

Quakers in Scotland. We receive the list of these appointments (Paper QiS B) and appoint them, under their existing lengths of service, to Quakers in Scotland. This is subject to those Friends in membership transferring their membership to Quakers in Scotland if they have not already done so.

The list of appointments is appended to these minutes.

QiS 25/09/11 Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee has brought us the following nominations:

QiS CLERK, to serve 1 January 2026 until the end of September 2026:
Adwoa Burnley (Perth Meeting)

QiS ASSISTANT CLERK, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028:
Pleasaunce Perry (Dunblane Meeting)

QiS TRUSTEE
Peter Hancock (Dunblane Meeting), to serve from appointment until the end of 2027.

GMS ZOOM HOST
Clive Potter (Aberdeen Meeting), to serve from appointment until the end of 2027.

SAFEGUARDING CO-ORDINATOR
Madeleine Harding (Central Edinburgh Meeting), to serve a second triennium from 1 January 2026 until the 31 December 2028.

INTERFAITH GROUP ON DOMESTIC ABUSE
Margaret Roy (Milngavie Meeting), to serve a second triennium from 1 January 2026 until the 31 December 2028.

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SCOTTISH COMMITTEE
Kate Arnot (South Edinburgh Meeting), to serve a second triennium from 1 January 2026 until the 31 December 2028.

INTERFAITH SCOTLAND REPRESENTATIVE
Kate Arnot (South Edinburgh Meeting), to serve a second triennium from 1 January 2026 until the 31 December 2028.

THE SCOTTISH QUAKER COMMUNITY JUSTICE WORKING GROUP (SQCJWG)
Anneke Kraakman (Perth Meeting) to serve a second triennium from 1 January 2026 – 31 12 2028.

ACTION OF CHURCHES TOGETHER IN SCOTLAND (ACTS)
MEMBERS MEETING

Adwoa Burnley (Perth Meeting), to serve a second triennium from 1 January 2026 – 31 12 2028. Note: - ACTS is likely to be laid down during this period.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP

Ed Tyler (Argyll Meeting), to serve a fourth triennium from 1 January 2026 – 31 12 2028. Note: a fourth term is unusual, but this is suggested as the working group is low in numbers and he contributes specialist knowledge around land reform and can support work around the Land Reform Bill.

These names being acceptable, we appoint our Friends accordingly.

QiS 25/09/12 QiS Nominations Committee

GMS minutes 25/06/11 and 25/09/13c refer. The Search Group appointed to find new clerk(s) for the Nomination Group brings in the following names:

To serve as CLERK from appointment until the end of 2027, Marilyn Higgins (Central Edinburgh Meeting);

To serve as ASSISTANT CLERK from appointment until the end of 2027, Rob Claxton-Ingham (Mull & Iona Meeting).

These names being acceptable, we appoint our Friends accordingly. Marilyn and Rob are working with the retiring clerk, Anna Mitchell, the Committee and our Local Development Worker, Zoe Prosser, on how Nominations Committee might work within Quakers in Scotland. This will include a liaison meeting open to Friends.

QiS 25/09/13 Ecumenical/Interfaith Appeal (witness to President Trump)

GMS minute 25/03/14 (Peacebuilding in dark times) refers. At the March 2025 meeting it was agreed that an informal group could be convened to plan a response to a potential visit by US President Trump later this year. That group was convened and has been drafting a letter of appeal in conjunction with Scottish ecumenical and interfaith groups. A final version of this appeal has been available as Paper QiS C.

QiS 25/09/14 Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group

Kate Philbrick, clerk of the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group (SQCJW), [has told us] that they are preparing a document, which to be available online and ultimately in print, *Changing how we respond to crime- a Quaker perspective*, which they plan to share with Quakers in Scotland alongside their annual report at the November meeting. We hope to engage with the SQCJ Network in

creating this and with other Friends in Quakers in Scotland. The group would welcome being invited to talk to groups of Quakers about this work.

The group and the network are also planning an open zoom meeting entitled *No soft option* on 19th November at 7:00 pm as part of the official Prisoners Week timetable. This will include a speaker from the Howard League and a Quaker speaker as well as time in smaller groups. We hope this will provide valuable space for reflection and dialogue on the crucial issues facing our whole justice system which is at a Crossroads.

QIS 25/09/15 Upcoming Business

On 8th November, we envisage the main business as being a welcome to those area meetings and Dundee Friends Property Trust Friends coming into Quakers in Scotland, and how we plan to operate with enlarged responsibilities.

We will hear from Zoe Prosser on the discernment process for the Local Development worker priorities for 2026. The Community Justice Working Group annual report is to come to us too. We also await the conclusion of the review of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group' three-year priorities.

QIS 25/09/16 Concluding minute

Michael J. Hutchinson,
Clerk

Susan Mitchell,
Assistant Clerk

Documents (to be) appended to these minutes:

List of members as of 15th September (Minute 25/09/02 refers):

Transfer Agreement (Minute 25/09/06 refers):