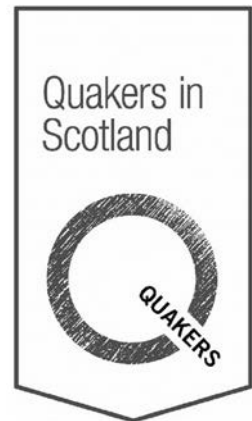


QUAKERS IN SCOTLAND

At a hybrid Meeting held 6th & 8th November 2025 at Edinburgh Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace EH1 2JL and by video conference.



Minutes

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.

Thursday 6th November from 7:00 pm

QiS 25/11/01 Opening worship

During our opening worship our assistant clerk read

QiS 25/11/02 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today.

We record the attendance during this meeting this evening of xx Friends, including xx attenders. We also had x visitors. xx local meetings were represented.

QiS 25/11/03 Agenda

QiS 25/11/04 Reporter to *The Friend* and *Scottish Friend*

We thank _____ for agreeing to report on this meeting for *The Friend* and *Scottish Friend*.

QiS 25/11/05 New members, transfers and deaths

From Area Meeting minutes since General Meeting/Quakers in Scotland held 20th September 2025, we record the following membership changes:

DEATHS

Francesca Ball	WSAM	died 02/10/25
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NEW MEMBERS

Neil Barton	WSAM
Edie Phoenix	WSAM
Meg Sloan	WSAM
(Andrew) Frank Vaughan	WSAM

TRANSFERS IN

Sheena Goulty	From ESAM to SESAM
Rachel Clarke	From Banbury & Evesham AM to NSAM
Rachel Crocket	From SESAM to WSAM
Michael Macartney-Filgate	From Norwich & Waveney AM to NSAM

TRANSFERS OUT

Dee Leach	From WSAM to Mid Somerset AM
Peter Leach	From WSAM to Mid Somerset AM
Martin Pippard	From ESAM to Northumbria AM

TERMINATIONS

Sarah Downing	WSAM
Jennifer Downing	WSAM
Mark Downing	WSAM
Elizabeth Duncan	WSAM
Victoria Hiron	WSAM
Linda Jones	ESAM
Susan Milne	ESAM
Ken Wood	WSAM
Vyvien Young	WSAM

We accept the transfer from General Meeting to Quakers in Scotland of the following further Friends:
(names to come)

The clerk has agreed that the name of one Friend transferring need not be included by name at this point.

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

QiS 25/11/06 Dates and venues 2026-2027

Further to minute QiS 25/09/09, we agree the following revised list of dates and venues agreed for meetings for the rest of 2025 and 2026/7:

2025

Monday 20th December 7pm online - reserve date if needed for making further appointments

2026

Saturday 7th February – online meeting during the day 09:30 -13:30

Saturday 28 February at Perth & online (date changed from 7th March as that clashed with Meeting for Sufferings)

Saturday 28th March - online meeting

Saturday 16th May - online meeting

Thursday 4th June 7pm online and Saturday 6th June 2026 at Glasgow

Saturday 22nd August - online meeting

Thursday 17th September 7pm online and Saturday 19th September at Inverness or Aberdeen and online

Saturday 24th October - online meeting

Thursday 5th November 7pm online and Saturday 7th November at Edinburgh and online

2027 to be arranged.

We ask Elders to provide Friends to act as elders in future.

We may need extra meetings or single topic meetings online and will appoint those as required.

QiS 25/11/07 Meeting for Sufferings report

Elaine Millar, our representative on Meeting for Sufferings, [has spoken] to her report of the residential meeting held on 3-5th October 2025 (Paper A). Meeting for Sufferings and Britain Yearly Meeting minutes and papers can be found on the Britain Yearly Meeting website, including the annual review, annual report and financial statements.

Meeting for Sufferings accepted the laying down of East Scotland, North Scotland and West Scotland Area Meetings, and uphold Friends, “as they develop new structures that aim to help Quakerism in Scotland to thrive”. They request that Quakers in Scotland (QiS) send four representatives to serve at each Yearly Meeting as it moves to become continuing YM - where alternates are no longer required to be nominated because all Friends may attend, and in the event of a represented being prevented, alternate representation may be organised within QiS.

Elaine told us that there were three main themes for our consideration and discernment. Firstly there was discernment on the 'theological and community aspects of online and blended worship'. Secondly, Meeting for Sufferings decided to keep access to giving a 'loyal address' to the monarch. Thirdly there was an exploration of our BYM strategic priorities into the 2030s.

Elaine [then referred back] to the final item in her July report, about the need to tackle polarised division within Quakers, as shown arising from aspects of gender issues. By minute 25/09/11 we agreed that we would return to this matter at this meeting. Now we learn that the proposed agenda for Yearly Meeting next May will include a key theme on handling conflict among Friends, working to overcome divisiveness and polarisation and, as a Spirit-led community, looking at ways we might work to build connections and foster acceptance and belonging.

The clerks will suggest a way forward

QIS 25/11/08 Local Development Worker Priorities for 2026

Minute GMS 24/11/15 refers. The priorities agreed with staff Zoe Prosser's Local Development Worker priorities for 2025 are listed in Paper B. Following consultation with her line manager and the QIS Clerk, Zoe Prosser has brought us the proposed priorities for 2026. These are changed slightly in order and emphasis to match the current situation.

1. Supporting Quakers across Scotland (including area meetings and Quakers in Scotland) to find good ways of working within our changing structure.
2. Supporting Quaker communities to be loving, inclusive and all age.
3. Pointing the way to information about available resources and materials, including videos and non-traditional resources, to help Quaker Meetings and role-holders identify what they need, and developing and creating further resources where there is a need.
4. Continue to strengthen and develop support for role holders.

QIS 25/11/09 Minute from SESAM: transatlantic slavery

We receive minute 6.3 of South East Scotland Area Meeting SESAM held 10th September 2025 which reads as follows:

Central Edinburgh: Research into our Quaker ancestors' role in the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and enslavement of people

We have received minute 2025/07/12 from Central Edinburgh LM:

Lancaster Quakers have issued an apology and have announced a series of other actions following research into their involvement with the trans-Atlantic slave trade and

enslavement of people.

Our Friend Mark Bitel, who is a member of the City of Edinburgh Council Legacy of Slavery and Colonialism Implementation Group has asked us “Is it now time for Quakers in Edinburgh and South-East Scotland to undertake research into the involvement of our Quaker ancestors in enslavement?”

He suggested we send this concern to Area Meeting, with the related suggestion that we could apply for a small research grant (circa £5K from the Sylvia Marshall Bequest Fund) to fund a specialist researcher at a university to undertake this research on our behalf.

While recognising concerns related to the issue of research relating to past involvement in the trans-Atlantic Slave Trade and enslavement of people, Friends supported the concern and the proposal that research should be undertaken. Dan Dickson expressed her willingness to contribute to this research. For the question of funding though it was agreed that discernment of this be moved to a later meeting. Clerks will forward this minute onto the Clerk of Area Meeting.

We agree to adopt this concern; we agree to invite the new Quakers in Scotland body to consider it as a Scotland-wide concern. We thank Central Edinburgh LM for bringing it forward.

Alastair Cameron, Clerk

We.....

QiS 25/11/10 Correspondence and events

a) Rosebank Oilfield and genocide in Palestine

On 24th September 2025, the Parliamentary Engagement Officer signed, on the authority of the clerk, an open letter to Stephen Flynn MP about the link between the genocide in Palestine and the Rosebank Oil Field. This letter was co-ordinated through Uplift.

b) Rosebank Oil field

On 23rd October 2025, the clerk signed a further letter, with others, to the Prime Minister urging him to reject the development of the Rosebank Oil Field in the North Sea. This letter was circulated with the last 'wee update' from our Parliamentary Engagement Officer.

QiS 25/11/11 pre-meeting

Saturday 8th November from 11 am to 4 pm

We have Travellers in the Ministry visiting us and may hear from them in our open worship or at another time (see agenda letter and draft minute QiS 25/11/13. below).

QIS 25/11/12 Welcome to all present

We welcome all Friends who are with us today.

We record the attendance during this meeting on Thursday 6th November of xx Friends, including xx attenders. We also had x visitors. Xx local meetings were represented.

The numbers of those present for all or part of the meeting on Thursday evening 6th November and today, Saturday 8th November were, by area meeting area:

East Scotland AM	xx (xx in Edinburgh, xx on Zoom)
North Scotland AM	xx (xx in Edinburgh, xx on Zoom)
South East Scotland AM	xx (xx in Edinburgh, xx on Zoom)
West Scotland AM	xx (xx in Edinburgh, xx on Zoom)
Visitors	x

Total: xx, including xx attenders

QIS 25/11/13 Travellers in the ministry

We welcome Friends travelling in the ministry in Scotland: Matt Rosen and Peter Blood-Patterson, with Lia den Daas. Matt writes:

I'm a young adult Friend and member of Stillwater Monthly Meeting, Ohio Yearly Meeting (Conservative), and Peter is a member of Mt Toby Monthly Meeting, New England Yearly Meeting, and a teacher at Pendle Hill Quaker Study Center. We have felt a drawing to visit you all in love, to see and feel how the Divine Teacher is working there, and to see if we might be of use by following the leadings of that Teacher among you.

Peter and I would hope to visit you for your general meeting, not with any agenda or plan, but just to learn with you all from our dear Guide. We know that traveling in the ministry in this way has become uncommon among Friends, so we'd be glad to share with you all about what this means for us and what we've been learning along the way, if an opportunity for that arises.

Matt and Peter will be supported by Lia den Daas, who has felt a leading to join Matt and Peter in visiting us. Lia is a young adult Friend from Jesus Lane Meeting in Cambridge.

The clerks have encouraged our visitors to speak to us as the Spirit moves them. This may be in the Saturday opening worship or at another time in the session. Information about the nature of travelling the ministry may be found in Quaker faith & practice 13.21-13.32.

QIS 25/11/14 Saturday agenda

QIS 25/11/15 Crynwyr Cymru - Quakers in Wales

Crynwyr Cymru - Quakers in Wales held a meeting online 25 October and recorded the following minute:

We send our loving greetings to Friends in Scotland at the glad news of their new structure and wish them well. We ask our Clerks to forward this minute to the Clerks of Quakers in Scotland.

We

QIS 25/11/16 Young Friends with us today

QIS 25/11/17 QIS Trustees Report and QIS 2026 Budget

NB not GMS trustees as it said in the agenda!

[We have received an oral update from Elizabeth Allen, a co-clerk of our Foundation Trustees.]

We receive minute 25/10/08 from our Foundation Trustees, which reads as follows:

QIS Property Committee

We have identified an urgent need to set up a Property Committee and ask Quakers in Scotland to do this.

We ask Kate and Chris to prepare draft Terms of Reference for this committee, based on the Terms of Reference for the BYM Finance and Property Committee, and the existing draft QIS General Memorandum of Understanding.

We send this minute to Quakers in Scotland.

Elizabeth Allen and Adwoa Burnley, co-clerks

We

Our treasurer, Kate Gulliver, has spoken to the draft interim budget for 2026 (Paper D). The budget proposes an expenditure of £73, 491 balanced by projected income of £73,000.

12.00 pm - We expect a short shuffle break at about 12.00 pm

QIS 25/11/18 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group report

We receive the quarterly report of our Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (Paper Ei) and Richard Raggett, co-convenor, has spoken to it.

We are pleased to hear Lucy Le Roux is settling into her role as Interim Parliamentary Engagement Officer PEO, as Sarah Komashko has begun her parental role. Lucy is undergoing her Quakers in Britain training, but has already begun sending her first email updates.

The online 'special meeting' about PEWG work was held on 23rd October, with a view to strengthening the group membership and looking towards new Convenors being appointable in the near future. The meeting was well supported and brought in a number of expressions of interest which have been passed to Nominations Committee.

Peacebuilding work has included participating in the launch of the Scottish Peace Platform, which we are recommended to join as full members (presently at no cost).

[We ...](#)

Other peacebuilding work involved 'Manifesto meetings' with the main political parties, specifically human rights filters for arms company funding grants, and the multiple benefits of peace education. The PEO has also met with Amnesty International on how to take forward the dialogue(s) on funding for arms with ministers and Scottish Enterprise. Other highlights of recent or upcoming work included meeting with the SNP manifesto-writing team on loss and damage funding; peace education; funding to arms companies; clear public engagement on, and strong implementation of climate policy. Two members of the Community Justice Working Group (SQCJWG) also attended and spoke about restorative justice and prison reform.

PEWG also worked with others to provide text for the Loss and Damage motion/debate led by Nicola Sturgeon due on 5 November. For the Scottish parliamentary elections in May next year, PEWG/PEO will be briefing Quakers in Scotland and will be providing materials to Friends to facilitate their contacting their MSPs and election candidates. PEWG and SQCJWG also hope to meet with Quaker MSP Alex Cole-Hamilton to discuss renewable energy and green skills; Loss and damage funding and issues of prison policy in relation to the Liberal Democrat manifesto and to advise us on good approaches for Quaker advocacy with the cohort of new MSPs after the election.

QiS 25/11/19 Parliamentary Engagement Working Group three-year priorities 2026 - 2028

Richard Raggett has spoken to the proposed three year priorities for the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group 2026-2028 (Paper Eii).

PEWG has consulted with Area Meetings and Friends across Scotland during this year and Paper Eii takes account of what was heard. In practical terms, the upcoming 2026 Parliamentary election will be a 'priority' for our PEO over the next 6 months, though within the parameters of our agreed priority areas. The current priorities are Climate Justice, Peacebuilding and Economic Justice (including land reform). All Area Meetings expressed support for the continuation of our current priorities, and we.....

QiS 25/11/20 Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group

Further to minute QiS 25/09/14, Kate Philbrick, clerk of the Scottish Quaker Community Justice Working Group (SQCJWG) [has spoken to] its annual report (Paper Fi).

Over the last year, the Working Group has continued to work to further the Quaker testimonies of peace, equality and justice, seeking growing points to bring about a just and compassionate society. It recognises that the inequalities and inadequacies in our society contribute hugely to the violence within it, the harms done and offences committed. Kate has indicated in the written report where the Working Group is in relation to its objectives of the Working Group (minute GMS 24/11/16 refers).

Much emphasis has been put on working more closely with the wider Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network, ensuring a two-way communication, for example in producing the Working Group's documents and coordinating monthly discussions. Mike Nellis's talk on giving evidence to the Sentencing Commission in a personal capacity, was a network highlight in October and there are two interesting talks planned: Angela Collins on Women in prisons and the effect on their children (November 2025) and Laura Emmerson and a colleague from the Children and Young People Centre for Justice will talk on Restorative Justice (December 2025). The Working Group has also held a successful online event during "Prisoners Week" primarily for Quakers based in Scotland. This involved Ben Jarman (2024 Swarthmore lecturer) answering questions, followed by talks from Maggie Chapman MSP, Green Party Spokesperson on criminal justice (Aberdeen Quaker attendee) and Mike Nellis (Working Group and Network member).

The Working group also represents QiS in communicating discerned Quaker views on community justice issues to other bodies and to the Scottish public. It works closely with the Scottish Prison Chaplaincy in planning "Prisoners Week" events, with this year's Zoom event being held on 19th November (Paper Fii is the flier). The Very Reverend Andrew McLellan (a former moderator of the Church of Scotland and former Chief Inspector of Prisons) will chair the session, and the Howard League for Penal Reform and Kate Philbrick will approach the need for penal reform from different perspectives. The ensuing discussions will give an opportunity for all

attending to have space for reflection and to shine a light on how justice can be delivered compassionately with a more creative and appropriate response to crime. The Group feels offering quiet spaces is maybe Quakers' greatest gift. The Working Group and Network members also supported a delayed Quaker Week launch of the book about the Barlinnie Special Unit on October 22nd, hosted by Alastair Macintosh at the Gal Gael Foundation.

The Working Group has also successfully joined with the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group for joint work, and has also made good use of the Parliamentary Engagement Officer's expertise and contacts.

As a result of responding so often to consultations, the working Group feels that it would be helpful if it created a simple document which we could share with Quakers, the public, policy makers and others, setting out our vision. The current title is; *Changing How We Respond to Crime in Scotland, from a Quaker Perspective. Re-imagining society as fairer, more caring, forgiving and compassionate.* Its themes are:

1. Prisons aren't working, our overcrowded prisons have social and financial costs.
2. There are effective and restorative humanising alternatives to prison and other ways of delivering justice.
3. Alternatives to (over-) imprisonment works elsewhere - why not in Scotland?
4. We need to consider social justice, our communities, and the causes of crime. Crime is a community issue, not just something about the offender.
5. How can Scotland change now?
Scotland has a track record of change.
6. The Quaker perspective.

We...

The Working Group has also worked to support interfaith chaplaincy within the justice system with continuing dialogue with the Chaplaincy advisors and in jointly planning a retreat day for facilitator chaplains in late November at Glasgow Meeting house on the theme of Sanctuary. Three of the Working Group have been going into HMP Addiewell to support the chaplain there. He has brought together a group of "elders", who are prisoners who work to support other prisoners. There is scope for offerings such work in other prisons.

In March last year, the Working Group gave advice to General Meeting on Orders for Lifelong Restriction as being comparable, but not the same, as the Imprisonment for Public Protection sentences on which Meeting for Suffering had been investigating. Minute GMS 24/03/12 refers. Although originally the Working Group advised "At this stage we do not recommend that Scottish Quakers should prioritise the revocation of the OLR legalisation; we would align with other organisations highlighting operational

or procedural issues with OLRs should these arise, "there has now been some concern about their application. The Working Group is aware of the psychological impact of indeterminate sentences, and the limited employment opportunities for offenders released on indeterminate sentences, particularly with the experience of living under the threat of recall. This is similar to the issues faced with IPP sentence in England. Balanced against this the Working Group reflects that without indeterminate sentences and opportunities for release, which are deemed to be able to be safely managed, sentencers might impose even longer determinate sentences. Therefore, currently the SQCJWG cannot definitively oppose indeterminate sentences; and will continue to monitor the situation and include this issue in the broader debate about the future of sentencing.

1.00 pm LUNCH BREAK

2.00 pm Afternoon Session

QiS 25/11/21 Appointments and Nominations Committee Report

Nominations Committee has brought us the following nominations, and Marilyn Higgins, convenor, [has spoken to] them:

QiS TRUSTEES:

Robin Waterston, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2027 (St Andrews Meeting)

Neil Turner, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2027 (South Edinburgh Meeting)

Piers Voysey, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028 (Forres Meeting)

Malcolm Crosby, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028 (Lanark Meeting)

Chris Holmes, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028 (Ayrshire Meeting)

The Treasurer and an assistant clerk will serve ex-officio.

PARLIAMENTARY ENGAGEMENT WORKING GROUP:

Carolyn Burch and Richard Raggett Joint Convenors period extended from 1 January 2026 to 31 March 2026 (Forres Meeting)

Lesley Morrison, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028 (Tweeddale Meeting)

Neil Barton, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028 (Glasgow Meeting)

Peter Cheer, to serve 1 January 2026 until 31 December 2028 (Perth Meeting)

Tara Smith, to serve 1 June 2026 until 31 May 2029 (Ayrshire Meeting)

SCOTTISH FRIEND EDITORIAL TEAM:

Amer Syed from 8 November 2025 to 30 June 2026 (Glasgow Meeting)

We note that Nominations Committee continues to seek Friends to serve as clerks to our Trustees, to serve from 1st January.

Nominations Committee also continue to search for convenors to the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group and the extended period for the present convenors allows for this.

25/11/22 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: minutes from Meeting for Sufferings and Area Meetings

Minute QiS 25/09/06 also refers.

We receive minute MfS/25/07/12 (Governance in Scotland) of Meeting for Sufferings held 5th July 2025 (Paper Hi), which reads as follows:

At a meeting of Meeting for Sufferings Held at High Leigh Conference Centre and by video conference over the weekend of 3-5 October 2025.

MfS/25/10/09 Governance in Scotland

We receive and note the following minutes: East Scotland Area Meeting minute 25.09.03 North Scotland Area Meeting minute 32/25 West Scotland Area Meeting minute 065/25

All three area meetings wish to lay themselves down and become part of Quakers in Scotland (QiS). We agree to this and endorse the proposals for reorganisation. We are content that QiS will take over the responsibilities of these area meetings. In keeping with the legal requirement, each of these area meetings has obtained consent from the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator to dissolve their area meeting charity.

We have been informed that on 20 September 2025 General Meeting for Scotland (GMS) held its final meeting and minuted its intention to dissolve the charity as soon as all legal formalities can be completed. As we heard at our July meeting, QiS will take over all the responsibilities of the General Meeting.

We ask our Church Government Advisory Group to propose appropriate changes to *Quaker faith & practice* to take account of these governance developments in Scotland.

When Meeting for Sufferings is laid down, there will be a new system of representatives to Yearly Meeting sessions. Until then, following the transition to

QIS of GMS, East, West and North Scotland Area Meetings, we ask Quakers in Scotland to make suitable arrangements so that four Friends continue to be appointed to attend Meeting for Sufferings (online or at the venue).

We uphold our Friends in Scotland as they develop new structures that aim to help Quakerism in Scotland to thrive.

Robert Card, Clerk

We note that South East Scotland Area Meeting intends to make a definitive decision over its relationship with Quakers in Scotland on 19th January 2026.

We receive minutes of closure from East Scotland, North Scotland and West Scotland Area Meetings as follows (Paper Hii):

EAST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

East Scotland Area Meeting held Saturday 18th October 2025 in Dundee and by zoom

25.10.10 Transfer of ESAM functions to Quakers in Scotland

We have heard that Meeting for Sufferings has agreed to our request to lay down East Scotland Area Meeting and transfer its functions to Quakers in Scotland. We receive Minute MfS/25/10/09 of Meeting for Sufferings held 3-5 October 2025 which reads in part:

“All three area meetings [East Scotland, North Scotland, West Scotland] wish to lay themselves down and become part of Quakers in Scotland (QIS). We agree to this and endorse the proposals for reorganisation. We are content that QIS will take over the responsibilities of these area meetings.... We uphold our Friends in Scotland as they develop new structures that aim to help Quakerism in Scotland to thrive.”

We have also received permission to transfer our charitable functions to Quakers in Scotland from OSCR.

We therefore agree that East Scotland Area Meeting transfers its responsibilities to Quakers in Scotland on Saturday 8 November at its next meeting. All members who have given their permission will on that date have their membership transferred to Quakers in Scotland.

We agree that all current AM appointments, except those of trustees, treasurer and clerks, pass to Quakers in Scotland with their existing terms of service. A number of post-holders due to end their service on 31 December 2025 have agreed to extend their service by one year to smooth the transition. We are grateful for this. A list of the ongoing appointments is on the ESAM webpage. However, ESAM will continue as a charitable body with Trustees and treasurer until the transfer of assets including St. Andrews Meeting House is complete. We

ask Trustees to take all necessary measures to implement this, and to notify Quakers in Scotland when the winding up is recognised by OSCR.

25.10.11 Reflections – looking back, looking forward

We have taken the opportunity to share memories, to acknowledge change and to reflect on ways of feeding into the ongoing work. We have heard of apprehensions, hopes, gratitude and excitement.

We have been given the image of seeds and of cultivation and diversity. We are taking a leap of faith. Let us live adventurously.

25.10.12 Minute of closure

Consent having been obtained from OSCR and from Meeting for Sufferings

(a) we agree to wind up the affairs of East Scotland Area Meeting and, after settlement of all debts and liabilities, transfer the remaining assets of the charity for nil consideration to Quakers in Scotland (registered charity SC054060);

(b) upon completion of which the charity shall be declared dissolved;

(c) we give authority to the Trustees to take all measures they consider necessary to give effect to this process.

We ask the Clerk to arrange for ESAM Minutes and other significant records to be deposited for safe-keeping in Dundee Meeting House.

East Scotland Area Meeting has served Friends in our area since 1966. We are grateful to all who have served it over the years. The work will continue under the new framework and we thank all those who will be contributing to this.

We send this Minute to Quakers in Scotland, Meeting for Sufferings and the Recording Clerk.

Robin Waterston Clerk

The local meetings being transferred are Dundee, Perth and St. Andrews.

A List of post-holders whose appointment will be transferred to Quakers in Scotland after 18 October 2025 is appended to these minutes.

NORTH SCOTLAND AREA MEETING

Minutes and details to come.

WEST SCOTLAND AM

WEST SCOTLAND AREA MEETING held 11th October 2025 at Stair, Ayrshire and online

086/25 Transfer to Quakers in Scotland

On 20th September General Meeting for Scotland was laid down and its responsibilities as set out in Quaker Faith & Practice 5.03 transferred to Quakers in Scotland. To ensure the new body can meet its responsibilities all GM

appointments, except those of trustees and treasurers, transferred with their ongoing terms of service to Quakers in Scotland.

We agree for West Scotland Area Meeting to transfer its responsibilities to Quakers in Scotland on Saturday 8th November. This is the date of the next meeting of Quakers in Scotland and would enable it to minute acceptance of the Area Meeting responsibilities and ensure there was no gap in the care of the meetings.

We agree that all current AM appointments, except those of trustees, treasurer and clerks, pass to Quakers in Scotland with their ongoing terms of service. A list of these appointments is attached. This will ensure a smooth transition of roles from AM to QiS.

At our meeting in August, we took time to consider what aspects of community and connections we felt were important to build on as we develop in the new ways of being.

We felt it was important to ensure we continue to provide opportunities for discussions and learning to maintain links between meeting communities.

We hope that new ways to organise outreach and enquirers events can be found to ensure we continue to make ourselves visible and accessible to those seeking a spiritual community.

We look forward to more opportunities for residential gatherings and other approaches to enable us to meet and share time and meals, to get to know one another and be part of the larger community.

As Quakers in Scotland becomes our new spiritual community embracing all Friends in Scotland, we welcome the opportunity to explore and grow as a supportive Quaker community.

We send this minute, the attached list of appointments, and a list of Local Meetings, to the Clerk of Quakers in Scotland.

086/27 Laying down the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) West Scotland Area Meeting

As recorded in minute 086/25 we intend to transfer all the responsibilities, as listed in QF&P (4.02-4.30), of the Area Meeting to Quakers in Scotland on 8th November 2025.

We have heard that OSCR have given consent to dissolving West Scotland Area Meeting as a charity.

We, having received notification of agreement from Meeting for Sufferings to the same, agree to wind up the affairs of the charity and after settlement of all debts and liabilities, transfer the remaining assets of the charity for nil consideration to Quakers in Scotland (registered charity SC054060).

Upon completion of this, the charity shall be declared dissolved.

We give authority to the Trustees to take all measures they consider necessary to give effect to this.

Kate Gulliver, clerk

WSAM Local Meetings transferring to QiS:

Argyll Quaker Meeting
Arran Quaker Meeting
Ayrshire Quaker Meeting
Castle Douglas Quaker Meeting
Dumfries Quaker Meeting
Dunblane Quaker Meeting
Glasgow Quaker Meeting
Islay & Jura Quaker Meeting
Lanark Quaker Meeting
Milngavie Quaker Meeting
Mull & Iona Quaker Meeting
Online Sunday Evening Meeting for Worship
Wigtown Quaker Meeting

25/11/23 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: Memoranda of Understanding

Papers Hiii a & b from the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group set out draft Memoranda of Understanding (General & Property).

A memorandum of understanding (MOU) describes who does what within Quakers in Scotland (QiS), whether by QiS itself or it's trustees, or its constituent Local Meetings (LMs). It seeks to provide clarity about

- Who does what particularly in areas of overlapping responsibility
- What should be reported to whom
- Legal responsibilities of the trustees and where these are delegated to QiS or LMs.

Quakers in Scotland (QiS) functions as an Area Meeting for its constituent LMs, and *Quaker faith & practice* advises that:

Each local meeting should agree with its area meeting the duties and responsibilities which the local meeting undertakes on behalf of the area meeting. This agreement should be formally recorded as part of a memorandum of understanding. The local meeting should report regularly, as required, to its area meeting on the discharge of these responsibilities. In the case of smaller meetings which are not able to carry forward all the responsibilities listed above, the recorded agreement should make clear the work that they are able to do themselves and what is done in co-operation with another local meeting. (Qfp 4.34)

Trustees are responsible for the assets of Quakers in Scotland, which in law includes all the assets of its constituent local meetings, and for the stewardship of its resources; in practice day-to-day decisions and the running of Local Meetings are left to local Friends.

These documents give guidance on who has responsibility for what. They aim to prevent misunderstandings and oversights, and are tailored to the circumstances of each meeting. They are not legal documents. Local Meetings (LM) and the Quakers in Scotland (QiS) are mutually interdependent. We are part of the same community and share the same overall purpose. The General MoU describes how responsibilities are shared between local meetings, QiS, and QiS trustees - who does what. Property and Financial arrangements are dealt with in more detail in the Property MOU and separate documents.

We ...

25/11/24 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: Intermediate Meetings

The Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group has prepared Paper Hiv on how Intermediate Meetings might work. This version is the latest draft following consultation. Intermediate meetings could take on many of the things that are currently or have been done at Area Meetings, in a manner that is flexible and not constrained by current geographical boundaries. The paper should be referred for guidance when setting up intermediate meetings.

An intermediate meeting is a meeting of Friends from a number of different worshipping communities who come together, for building community and/or sharing business.

Some Intermediate Meeting would be for regional community building, such as residential meetings or other events shared between meetings or open to Friends from different meetings. They would not undertake QiS business and might be occasional or regular.

Other Intermediate Meetings could include at least some business for QiS, in which case they should be open to all Friends within QiS who wish to attend. They would appoint clerks and make minutes. Minutes on business undertaken for QiS should be recorded at the next QiS full meeting. Such intermediate meetings could be occasional or regular, and some former area meetings might wish to continue as intermediate meetings.

We....

3.00 pm Short shuffle break

25/11/25 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: Eldership and Pastoral Care

The Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group has brought to us paper Hv on how eldership might work within Quakers in Scotland where area meetings have been laid down. The pastoral care paper is still in preparation but we will come to it early next year.

We.....

25/11/26 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: Committee structure and appointments

The Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group has forwarded Paper Hvii on a possible committee and appointments structure, showing how Local Meetings, Intermediate Meetings and QiS could appoint committees and role-holders in an integrate manner. This is backed up in the paper by useful diagrams. Such a structure will necessarily evolve and we will consider this in stages. Some of the suggestions in the paper are already in operation or have been asked for – such as the QiS Trustees and the finance and property committees. Nominations Committee we will consider separately.

There is immediate need to bring together Friends appointed to roles transferred from area meetings that have been laid down. This is where action has not already been taken.

We

25/11/27 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: QiS Nominations Committee

We receive Paper Hviii, *Ideas for QiS Nominations Process*, from Marilyn Higgins, clerk to QiS Nominations Committee, [who has spoken to it]. This paper expands on the suggestions for a Nominations Committee and its appointment from the Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group has forwarded Paper as seen in paper Hvii.

Both papers stress how the nominations process emphasises the spiritual act of discernment at its heart. “It is a practical application of our faith with a firm spiritual foundation arising from our testimonies. Discernment can be deep, prayerful, careful, powerful.”

We.....

25/11/28 Transition from General Meeting for Scotland to Quakers in Scotland: Membership applications visitors appointment procedure

Quakers in Scotland Co-ordinating Group suggest the following membership application visitors appointments procedure (Paper Hix). This proposal aims to unify slight differences between Scottish area meetings in the process.

Alongside the application, the QiS clerk should receive the suggested name of a visitor from the LM. If there is time, the elders from appropriate LMs would be asked for suggestions for the second visitor. If this can't be done, someone is chosen at the meeting of QiS, possibly subject to consent.

Within this system all or part of the membership process is something that might be delegated to an Intermediate Meeting. We also bear in mind that not all applications require visitors.

We

QiS 25/11/29 Tabular Statement for 2025

On the advice of Britain Yerly Meeting, the Tabular Statement (membership statistics) for 2025 will be based on Area Meetings areas as previously. We

QiS 25/11/30 Upcoming Business

On 20th December we will only meet if there are appointments to be made. We envisage the main business on Saturday 20th February to be a continuation with our transition arrangements to Quakers in Scotland, and also to include a Meeting for Sufferings report, a report from our Trustees and a consideration of our ecumenical and interfaith work.

QiS 25/11/31 Concluding minute

Documents appended to these minutes:

East Scotland Area Meeting appointments transferred to Quakers in Scotland:

Local Meeting	Post	Name	First appointment	Serving until
Dundee	Elder	Robert Thompson	Jan 2017	Dec 2026
	Elder	Connie Wright	Jan 2024	Dec 2026
	Elder	Bel Ingham	Feb 2025	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Norman Alm	Jan 2020	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Pamala McDougall	May 2023	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Craig Wilson	Feb 2025	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Kris Thomassen	Jan 2024	Dec 2026
Perth	Elder	Anneke Kraakman	May 2020	Dec 2026
	Elder	Sue Holland-Smith	Jan 2020	Dec 2026

	Pastoral F	Felicity Bryers	Jan 2024	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Stella Cranwell	Jan 2020	Dec 2026
St. Andrews	Elder	Michael Grieve	Jan 2023	Dec 2027
	Elder	Pam Brunt	Nov 2025	Dec 2028
	Elder	Robert Rayner	Jan 2026	June 2026
	Pastoral F	Ellen Colingsworth	Jan 2021	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Busa Cochrane-Muir	Jan 2021	Dec 2026
	Pastoral F	Liz Crichton	Jan 2025	Dec 2027
	Pastoral F	Sue Atkinson	Jan 2026	Dec 2028
All	NFPB rep	Craig Wilson	Jan 2025	Dec 2027
	QLRC rep	Anneke Kraakman	Jan 2023	Dec 2026
	QLRC deputy rep	Kate Douglas	Jan 2023	Dec 2026
	QiS Noms Ctee	Jill Marshall	Aug 2020	Dec 2026
	Mtg for Sufferings	Robert Thompson	Summer 2023	Summer 2026
	Mtg for Sufferings	Norman Alm	Summer 2023	Summer 2026
	Registering officer	Vacant		
	CYP Advocate	Vacant		
	S/guarding coord	Vacant		

West Scotland Area Meeting Appointments transferring to Quakers in Scotland

POST	NAME	END DATE	TERM	Minute of appointment
Website - AM page editor	Ruth Bacon	31/12/26	3	06/18, 120/20, 063/23
Registering officer	Kate Philbrick	31/12/26	3	96/17, 100/20, 018/24
Archivist	Paul Burton	31/12/26	4	113/14, 96/17, 100/20, 063/23
Safeguarding coordinator	Jane Essex	31/12/26	1	063/23
Safeguarding deputy	Gill Reid	31/12/26	1	063/23
Health and Safety Officer	Wendy Reynolds	31/12/27	2	097/21, 005/25
Prison Visitor (Greenock)	Martin Mansell	ongoing	3	05/20, 100/20, 063/23
Prison Chaplain/Visitor	Jenny Copsey	31/12/26	2	029/23, 063/23
WSQN editor	Margaret Roy	31/12/26	3	80/16, 96/17, 100/20, 018/24
Children's work				
Children's advocate	Mary Alice Mansell	31/12/26	3	39/19, 100/20, 018/24

JYM coordinator & Named Contact Person	Pam Currie	31/12/26	1	082/23
Northern Friends Peace Board representative	Barry Mills	31/12/26	1	077/24
Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith relations (QCCIR)	Laura McMurtrie	31/12/26	1	082/23
Quaker Life Representative Council	Terri Sutherland	31/12/26	1	049/24
Clerk of spiritual & pastoral care group	Sheila Semple	31/12/26	1	064/24
Elders				
Argyll	Wendy Reynolds	31/12/26	1	082/23
Arran	Chris Holmes	31/12/27	1	017/25
Ayrshire	Tara Smith	31/12/26	1	105/24
Ayrshire	Kate Gulliver	31/12/26	1	105/24
Dunblane	Judith Rogers	31/12/26	1	082/23
Dunblane	Peter Hancock	31/12/26	1	082/23
Glasgow	Neil McKechnie	31/12/27	1	017/25
Glasgow	Rosemary Morgan	31/12/26	1	018/24
Glasgow	Linda Cannon	31/12/27	1	005/25
Glasgow	Hilary Patrick	31/12/28	1	078/25
Glasgow	Sheila Semple	31/12/26	1	018/24
Glasgow	David Thomas	21/12/26	2	008/22, 018/24
Glasgow	Mary Troup	31/12/28	1	078/25
Glasgow	Daphne Wassermann	31/12/26	1	082/23
Lanark	Jane Essex	31/12/26	1	077/24
Milngavie	Jenny Copsey	31/12/27	1	078/25
Milngavie	Robert Mandeville	31/12/26	3	082/23
Milngavie	Barbara Potter	31/12/26	1	082/23
Mull and Iona	Rob Claxton-Ingham	31/12/26	2	120/20, 082/23
Mull and Iona	Jenny Kime	31/12/26	2	120/20, 082/23
Wigtown	Helen MacDonald	31/12/26	1	082/23
Pastoral Care				
Argyll	Ed Tyler	31/12/27	3	96/17, 120/20, 005/25
Arran	Mary Robinson	31/12/27	1	017/25
Ayrshire	Hilary Christy	31/12/26	4	113/14, 96/17, 120/20, 082/23
Ayrshire	Laura McMurtrie	31/12/26	1	082/23

Dunblane	Crawford Logan	31/12/26	3	96/17, 120/20, 082/23
Dunblane	Elaine Millar	31/12/26	2	022/22, 082/23
Dunblane	Pleasaunce Perry	31/12/27	1	017/25
Glasgow (Wed mtg)	Liz Anderton	31/12/26	1	018/24
Glasgow	Ren Clark	31/12/26	1	105/24
Glasgow	Mark Coleman	31/12/26	1	018/24
Glasgow	Mary Cox	31/12/26	1	018/24
Glasgow	Gisela Creed	31/12/26	2	120/20, 018/24
Glasgow	Mary Alice Mansell	31/12/26	2	072/22, 018/24
Glasgow	Diane Scott	31/12/28	1	078/25
Glasgow	David Thomas	31/12/27	1	078/25
Glasgow	Alastair Trainor	31/12/26	1	105/24
Glasgow	Maureen Waugh & Mike Nellis	31/12/26	1	018/24
Lanark	Elisabeth Hodson	31/12/27	1	120/20, 017/25
Milngavie	Ursula Edge	31/12/26	1	082/23
Mull and Iona	Katherine Elwis	31/12/27	2	120/20, 017/25
Mull & Iona	Juliet Antill (a)	31/12/27	1	017/25
Nominations				
Arran (Deputy Clerk)	Tessa Smith	31/12/26	1	034/24
Arran	Chris Holmes	31/12/26	1	077/24
Ayrshire (Clerk)	Gill Reid	31/12/26	2	121/20, 034/24
Dumfries	Jan Lethbridge	31/12/26	1	034/24
Dunblane	Robin Davis	31/12/27	1	017/25
Glasgow	Sheila Semple	31/12/26		034/24
Wigtown	Via clerk			
Assistant Area Meeting Clerk	Wendy Reynolds	31/12/26	1	034/24