



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

8 March 2014

Glasgow

Min. 1 Reading

During Meeting for Worship we heard a reading quoting from Quaker Faith and Practice 29.16 in which Val Ferguson writes of what unites us as Quakers.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 9 attenders to this GM. We also welcome as visitors Matthew Ross, the newly appointed General Secretary of Action for Churches Together in Scotland and John Butterfield who is deputy convener of ACTS and minister of Cumbernauld United Reformed Church.

We will record the total numbers of all present and add them to these minutes.

East Scotland	15
South East Scotland	30
North Scotland	11
West Scotland	31
Total:	87 plus 2 visitors

Min. 3 Reporter

We appoint Nigel Dower from North Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask West Scotland AM to report on the next GM.

Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Sue Holland-Smith (E)
Jean Brydon (SE)
Katrina McCrae (SE)
Peter Leach (W)
Dee Leach (W)

We record the following deaths:

Jenny Benvie (E)
Claude Spiers (E)
Isobel Lindsay (SE)
James Webber (SE)
Anne Davies (SE)
Bill Forbes (SE)

Min. 5 Dates and Venues for 2015-16

We propose the following GM dates and venues for 2015-16

East - 7 March 15 (already agreed)
North - 6 June 15
West - 12 Sept 15
South East - 14/15 Nov 15
East - 5 March 2016

We ask AM Clerks to consider these dates and for GM to confirm them in June.

Min. 6 Tabular Statement 2013

We note the following numbers at 31st December 2013.

	2013	2012	2011	2010
East	110	111	107	108
North	127	122	118	123
South East	232	247	254	265
West	223	227	228	224
TOTAL	692	707	707	720

Min. 7 Financial Report for 2013

We have received the examined annual report and accounts for 2013 from our Treasurer, John Phillips. Total income from area meeting quotas and grants from Britain Yearly Meeting and the Camfield Trust was £19,632. Payments totalled £17,947, giving a surplus for the year of £1685. We thank our Treasurer for his lucid explanation of the figures.

We authorise the Clerk to sign the Report.

The report and statement of accounts is attached to these minutes.

Min. 8 Meeting for Sufferings

Jane Pearn has reported on Meeting for Sufferings held on 1st February 2014 where there were underlying themes of relationships, trust and balance. A new *Policy on Speaking Out* was approved and a checklist will be produced for individual Friends and Meetings. Various issues were raised on the report of Trustees. A proposal to revise Quaker Faith and Practice was recommended to BYM. Jessica Metheringham gave a lively account of her work as Parliamentary Engagement Officer at Friends House. Details were given to Meeting for Sufferings representatives regarding the Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath.

We have heard that Jessica Metheringham came to speak to our Parliamentary Liaison Function Group and is maintaining contact with them, particularly regarding the question of Trident.

Min. 9 Report of Parliamentary Liaison Function Group

Elizabeth Allen has reported on the work of the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group. Much of this has concerned the proposed Parliamentary Engagement post for Scotland. Area Meetings are being consulted and a full report will come to GM in June. GM Trustees are working on the role and details of the post. We suggest that the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group should raise with Jessica Metheringham the position of asylum seekers in Scotland and the differing legal position to England.

Min. 10 Report of the Outreach Function Group

Pete Stuart has reported as convener of the Outreach Function Group. Outreach is not just about specific events, but about having a presence in the community through all means of communication, particularly the internet. Weddings and funerals are occasions when people come into contact with Quakers and may gain an understanding of our faith. Peace work and criminal justice work are also opportunities to convey who we are. As a group in Scotland we are very small and it is important that we strive to engage with the public at a deeper level. Quaker Week from 4th-12th October represents an opportunity to put on specific outreach events.

There are two vacancies on the Outreach Function Group and Pete asked that suggestions for possible members be made to the Nominations Function Group.

Adwoa Bittle has described an initiative of Perth Friends to mount a photographic exhibition of the Quaker Tapestry during the whole of September. Perth Friends are making their own panel about Perth. Friends are encouraged to attend the exhibition, help as stewards, and work on the panel.

We have been reminded that we cannot engage meaningfully unless as individuals we are clear about our faith, and outreach events can help us clarify this.

Min. 11 Report of Children and Young People's Function Group

Madeleine Harding has given an overview of the work of the Children and Young People's Function Group. The Link Weekends for 13-17 year olds have been resurrected and two are planned for the current year. Last year they used the Bonally Outdoor Centre near Edinburgh. The weekends include discussion groups, role playing, fun activities and some powerful worship sessions.

There is a perceived need for a programme for 9-11 year olds and an event for this group was held in Nethybridge last year. This year they are organising a family weekend to help children and young people across Scotland to get to know each other prior to the Summer Shindig. A youth hostel has been booked in Braemar for 3rd-5th October and families are encouraged to book for this self-catering weekend.

The Function Group also supports the work of the Children and Young People's Advocates.

We are pleased to hear of this work with young people and encourage the Function Group in their work.

Min. 12 Church of Scotland Ecumenical Relations Committee

We have been invited to appoint a representative to this committee and refer it to our Nominations Function Group.

Min. 13 Referendum on Scottish Independence

In our afternoon session, we have worked in groups to share our individual sense of identity, and within a spirit of worship-sharing to express our hopes, fears and uncertainties regarding the possibility of Scottish independence.

Min. 14 Closing Minute

We note that our Administrator will shortly begin a three month secondment to work with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Israel/Palestine and we wish her well in this service.

We record our thanks to West Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Edinburgh when Sarah Richards of Northumbria Area Meeting will tell us about their experiments with the holding of Area Meeting.

Martin Burnell
Clerk

**RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS):
GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND**

(Scottish Charity Number SC 012281)

Trustees' Report for the year ended 31st December 2013

OFFICE BEARERS

Robin Waterston (Clerk)
Martin Burnell (Assistant Clerk)
Leslie Stevenson (Representative Friend)
John Phillips (Treasurer)
Duncan Wallace (Assistant Treasurer)

ADMINISTRATOR AND PRINCIPAL OFFICE

Bronwen Currie,
Taigh na Torraig, Consiby,
Bruichladdich, Isle of Islay, PA49 7UN.

Telephone 01496 850 006
Email ScotFriends@gmail.com
Website www.quakerscotland.org

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER OF THE ACCOUNTS

Paul Kenny,
Cavers Garden Farm, Denholm,
Hawick, TD9 8LN.

BANKERS

The Co-operative Bank
Triodos Bank

TRUSTEES (during 2013 and at the time of signing of this report)

Pamela Brunt
Philip Bryers (until 31st March 2013)
Martin Burnell (until 31st December 2013)
Robin Davis (Clerk to the Trustees)
David James
Margaret Morton (from 1st April 2013)
Jacqueline Noltingk (from 1st January 2014)
John Phillips

NOTE 1: *This report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Office of the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).*

NOTE 2: *In this report "the General Meeting" means General Meeting for Scotland, "the Society" means the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) and "the Yearly Meeting" means the Yearly Meeting of the Society in Britain (Britain Yearly Meeting). "Attenders" are persons who are associated with a Local Meeting for Worship, but who are not in formal membership of the Society.*

1. The Organisation of the General Meeting

The General Meeting is a constituent part of Britain Yearly Meeting which is the governing body of the Religious Society of Friends in Britain. The Membership of the General Meeting consists of those having Membership in the four Scottish Area Meetings of the Society. The Area Meeting is the basic business unit in the Society, dealing with membership, marriages, pastoral care and property. The General Meeting normally meets four times each year in different parts of Scotland.

2. The Objectives of the General Meeting

The General Meeting shares the basic aims of the Society as a church, promoting its spiritual insights and looking after the interests and welfare of its members. It provides both a policy-making forum for the Society in Scotland and a focus for the consideration of topics of current importance to the Society in Scotland.

The General Meeting represents the Society of Friends in Scotland among the other Churches and other faiths, among Scottish organisations and to the Scottish Government.

3. Administration

Foundation There is no known founding document. The General Meeting was probably established in the latter part of the 17th century when the Society was first organised, after its beginning as a popular religious movement under the inspiration of George Fox. Following periods of persecution the Society has been recognised as one of the non-conformist churches. Its operation is governed by "Quaker Faith and Practice", its Book of Discipline. As described there, the General Meeting is at all times subject to the discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Governing Document Following changes to charities legislation in Scotland, a Governing Document was approved by the General Meeting on 10th March 2007.

Office bearers Those who serve the General Meeting are normally appointed for (renewable) three-year periods. There are five office bearers: Clerk, Assistant Clerk, Representative Friend (for Action for Churches Together in Scotland), Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer. The first four, together with the Convenors of the Function Groups, form the General Meeting Committee which acts as an executive and arrangements committee.

Function Groups deal with particular aspects of the General Meeting's business. Each has one representative from each Area Meeting and other members as required. The groups cover Meeting Agendas; Nominations; Children and Young People; Outreach; and Parliamentary Liaison.

Six trustees, including the General Meeting treasurer *ex officio*, serve the General Meeting. Trustees receive no remuneration.

Business Method The Society regards its meetings for business as being held under the guidance of God. It believes that, when the meeting takes place in a spirit of worship, God's will for the meeting can be discerned without the need for divisive voting. The Clerk presents each item of business to the meeting and, after Friends have been heard, and when it seems likely that the meeting has reached unity, the Clerk presents a draft minute. This may be accepted at once or can be amended until all present can unite with it. The minutes are thus approved by the meeting at which they are made.

4. Financial Review of 2013

The income of the General Meeting continued to be healthy with grants of £6,490 from Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM) towards administrative expenses and £1,400 from the Camfield Trust towards the travelling expenses of General Meeting representatives, and outreach. The total of the quotas requested from Area Meetings was maintained at £10,000.

Our expenditure in 2013 was roughly similar to that in the previous two years. In general, the grants paid to external organisations were as agreed by members in November 2011. General Meeting continues to meet the costs associated with holding one residential meeting each year (held in Aberdeen in 2013). Our printed list of Members and Attenders is produced in alternate years; the next version will be distributed in 2015.

Among the grants made to external bodies the largest awarded was £1,700 for the Northern Friends Youth Events Trust which organises an annual summer school for Young Friends from northern Britain. It remains our policy only to support organisations with which we have some involvement via representatives or otherwise.

The trustees have agreed that two funds will be maintained by the General Meeting treasurer as restricted funds. These are (i) Quaker Link Weekends for teenagers (administered by the General Meeting's administrator and previously known as the "QTAA" fund; QTAA is the Quaker Teenager Activity Account); and (ii) a new General Meeting Fund for Healing, established when the Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland) was wound up during 2012. The latter is overseen by two Friends appointed by the General Meeting. No recommendations for payment of grants were made during 2013.

An overall surplus of nearly £1,700 was accumulated within the General Fund during 2013.

The General Meeting reviewed its **reserves policy** at its meeting in November 2011. It was agreed that, in general, reserves should be equivalent to not less than 6 months expenditure. At present our reserves exceed £20,000, equivalent to about 12 months expenditure. Although it has been agreed that this level should be reduced over a number of years, this sum is available to meet expenditure on new initiatives. In particular, the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group has proposed that the General Meeting should employ a Parliamentary Liaison Officer; the reserve accumulated in the General Fund will be available to support this post in its initial stages.

5. Review of Activities during the year

We held four business meetings during 2013 in different venues across Scotland. Regular business items include reports and discussion concerning a large variety of charitable endeavours within Scotland, especially those with which the General Meeting has a special relationship (for example, through an appointed trustee or other representative).

Each meeting included presentation of a special topic by a visiting speaker. These covered: (March) a review of Quaker life in Scotland over the centuries, by the General Meeting archivist; (June) the Transition Town Movement, and the Portobello Energy Descent and Land Reform Group's work within the Portobello community; (September) a talk from Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting, on "Why it's exciting to be a Quaker today"; and (November) reports on taking action for economic justice from Christian Aid Scotland, the Fair Penny Campaign and Quaker Peace and Social Witness (the Economics, Sustainability and Peace sub-committee).

There were also four residential experiences for Children and Young Friends during 2013: the Summer Shindig, held at Ackworth School in August (organised by the Northern Friends Youth Events Trust); two teenager Link Weekends held in April at Glasgow Meeting House on the theme "Communities – what happens when ... " and in October at the Bonaly Scout Centre, Edinburgh on the theme "Co-operation, not Conflict"; and a pre-Shindig weekend for 11-13s held at Nethy Bridge on 31st May-2nd June.

The initiative of our Parliamentary Liaison Function Group to consider the establishment of a position for a part-time member of staff to address Quaker advocacy in Scotland has also been under detailed consideration during 2013, including discussions with staff involved with advocacy initiatives at Friends House in London.

Our administrator, employed for 8 hours a week to support the work of office-holders and Scottish Friends generally, has worked effectively on a variety of organizational tasks. Various

events were organized by local Meetings in Scotland in October to mark National Quaker Week 2013.

We supported representatives on a variety of bodies including ACTS, the Scottish Churches Racial Justice Group, the Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund, Scottish Churches Housing Action, Northern Friends Youth Events Trust, the Alternatives to Violence Project (Scotland), the Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre, and others.

6. Future Intentions

The major new work anticipated for 2014 is expected to be the development of the General Meeting's work on parliamentary liaison, especially in the fields of peace and criminal justice.

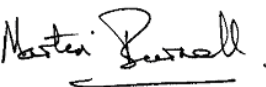
7. Connected Bodies and Transactions between them

Apart from the constituent Quaker Meetings and Britain Yearly Meeting, there is no other connected body.

8. Approval of Report and authority to Sign

This Report was approved by the trustees on 25th February 2014; it was signed on their behalf by Robin Davis (clerk to the trustees):

This Report and the Statement of Accounts for 2013 were presented to a General Meeting held in Glasgow on 8th March 2014 and the Clerk of the General Meeting was authorised to sign them

Signed:  .

Martin Burnell
Clerk of General Meeting

Date: 17th March 2014

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS): GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

Scottish Charity Number SC 012281

Receipts and Payments Account for the year ended 31st December 2013

	Notes and foot- notes	2013 General Fund £	2013 Restricted Funds		2013 Totals £	2012 Totals £
			YF Link Weekends £	Fund for Healing £		
			[1]	[2]		
RECEIPTS						
Voluntary receipts						
Quotas from constituent Area Meetings	A	10,000.00			10,000.00	10,000.00
Grants received	B	7,890.00			7,890.00	7,765.00
Donations and legacies		17.25		1,000.00	1,017.25	60.77
GM fund for healing (transfer to GM)		-		-	0.00	2,793.22
Trading receipts						
Book of Members and Attenders		1,639.00			1,639.00	9.80
Investment income						
Bank interest		86.15			86.15	60.48
Receipts from Quaker activities						
Scottish Link Weekends		-	1,685.00		1,685.00	535.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		19,632.40	1,685.00	1,000.00	22,317.40	21,224.27
PAYMENTS						
Costs of generating funds						
		0.00			0.00	0.00
Trading items						
Book of Members and Attenders		1,369.70			1,369.70	2.63
Cost of charitable activities						
GM administrator: salary		4,389.00			4,389.00	4,307.14
GM administrator: office expenses		557.02			557.02	1,219.85
Grants and subscriptions	C	5,025.00			5,025.00	4,940.00
Scottish Friend		2,975.95			2,975.95	3,891.03
GM meetings and conferences		1,112.44			1,112.44	1,392.13
Function groups	D	744.90			744.90	1,517.57
Link Weekends			1,831.59		1,831.59	468.16
Expenses of representatives	E	929.15			929.15	402.09
Expenses of office holders		69.60			69.60	0.00
Governance costs						
		774.42	30.00		804.42	123.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		17,947.18	1,861.59	0.00	19,808.77	18,263.60
SURPLUS / (DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR		1,685.22	-176.59	1,000.00	2,508.63	2,960.67
STATEMENT OF BALANCES						
Opening Balance 1st January		19,563.60	593.20	2,793.22	22,950.02	19,989.35
Surplus/deficit for the year		1,685.22	-176.59	1,000.00	2,508.63	2,960.67
Balance on 31st December		21,248.82	416.61	3,793.22	25,458.65	22,950.02
<u>These funds are represented by (31st December):</u>						
Co-operative Bank current account, 31st December		10,147.14				24,530.32
Less cheques not yet presented		-157.48				-2,173.50
Triodos Bank deposit account, 31st December		15,052.38				0.00
Bank of Scotland current account ("QTAA")		416.61				593.20
Total held in bank accounts		25,458.65				22,950.02
OTHER ASSETS						
Office equipment	[3]					

These accounts were signed by the treasurer:

(John H. Phillips)

They were approved by the trustees on 25th February 2014 and signed by the clerk on their behalf:

(Robin Davis)

General Meeting for Scotland

Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2013

Brief explanations (not being part of the accounts)

RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS ACCOUNTS

These accounts show the income received and the expenditure incurred during the twelve months, without correction for debts or credits at the end of the year.

RECEIPTS

GM Fund for healing:

A bequest designated for the Christian Fellowship of Healing was distributed to churches (including General Meeting for Scotland) during 2013.

PAYMENTS

Book of Members and Attenders

Printed copies of the Book of Members and Attenders 2013 were distributed to Scottish Friends in January. The next printed edition will be distributed in 2015.

Grants and subscriptions

These were agreed by General Meeting in session.

GM conferences and meetings:

The cost of arranging each meeting of GM (mainly residential GM).

Function Groups, etc:

The cost of advertising Quaker Week in The Big Issue was met by BYM in 2013.

Link Weekends: three were held in 2013.

Governance costs:

Following discussion by the GM trustees, a comprehensive insurance policy has been taken out, covering all GM activities.

Also included under governance are Information Commission registration, examining the accounts and trustees' expenses.

BALANCES

Banks

A new deposit account was opened with Triodos Bank during 2013. Funds are set aside here to cover new initiatives by General Meeting.

Final balance

The end-of-year balance of the GM General Fund (held in the Co-operative Bank and Triodos Bank) has increased by £1,685.22 during 2013.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS): GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

Scottish Charity Number SC 012281

Notes to the accounts for the year ended 31st December 2013

	2013 £	2012 £
RECEIPTS		
Note		
A <u>Quotas</u>		
East Scotland AM	1,432.40	1,410.26
North Scotland AM	1,810.80	1,730.77
South East Scotland AM	3,648.70	3,730.77
West Scotland AM	3,108.10	3,128.20
Total	10,000.00	10,000.00
B <u>Grants received</u>		
Camfield Trust	1,400.00	1,400.00
Britain Yearly Meeting	6,490.00	6,365.00
Total	7,890.00	7,765.00
PAYMENTS		
C <u>Grants and subscriptions</u>		
Northern Friends Youth Events Trust	1,700.00	1,700.00
Quaker Service, Ulster	250.00	250.00
Scottish Churches Housing Action	500.00	300.00
Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office	300.00	300.00
Alternatives to Violence Project, Scotland	300.00	300.00
Scottish Churches China Group	250.00	250.00
Scottish Churches Racial Justice	350.00	350.00
Faiths in Scotland Community Action Fund	600.00	600.00
Scotland's for Peace	180.00	180.00
Edinburgh Peace & Justice Centre	250.00	250.00
Quaker Council for European Affairs study tour	0.00	240.00
Jubilee Scotland	120.00	120.00
Prisoners' Week Trust	100.00	-
Scottish Interfaith Council	75.00	50.00
Interfaith Group on Domestic Abuse	50.00	50.00
Total	5,025.00	4,940.00
D <u>GM Function Groups, etc</u>		
Outreach	246.60	741.80
Criminal Justice	-	103.80
Nominations	129.30	269.42
CYPFG (Advocates' Group)	325.00	-
Parliamentary advocacy	44.00	90.55
Archive group	-	312.00
Total	744.90	1,517.57
E <u>Expenses of representatives</u>		
Meeting for Sufferings	128.60	-
ACTS, Representative Friend	713.45	328.20
Northern Friends Youth Events Trust	62.10	65.22
Other representatives	25.00	8.67
Total	929.15	402.09

FOOTNOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

- [1] Scottish Young Friends' Link Weekends are funded through a bank account (the "QTAA current account") administered by the GM administrator. It is shown in these accounts as a Restricted Fund kept for the purpose of funding these weekend activities.

During 2013 three Link Weekends were held:

April (Glasgow): "Communities - What Happens When ... ?"

May/June (Nethy Bridge): Pre-Shindig weekend

October (Bonaly, Edinburgh): "Co-operation, not Conflict"

Payment for liability and accident insurance is shown under "governance costs".

- [2] The charity "Christian Fellowship of Healing (Scotland)" was wound up in 2012 and its assets were distributed among the churches that had contributed to its establishment. General Meeting for Scotland accepted a share in November 2012, setting up a restricted "General Meeting Fund for Healing" for making grants in this area. No grants were approved during 2013.
- [3] A computer costing £827 was purchased in 2012; this is shown formally in this note to the accounts, but the purchase cost was written off in the Statement of Accounts for 2012.