



GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

7 March 2015
St Andrews

Min. 1 Worship

In our Meeting for Worship we have been conscious of a number of Friends who are no longer with us and give thankfulness for the richness of their lives.

Min. 2 Welcome

We welcome 2 attenders to this GM and also our new Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Mairi Campbell-Jack.

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

East Scotland	8
South East Scotland	13
North Scotland	1
West Scotland	7
Total:	29

Min. 3 Reporter

We appoint Bronwen Currie from West Scotland AM to report this meeting to *The Friend* and the *Scottish Friend*. We ask East Scotland AM to report on the next GM.

Min. 4 New members and deaths

We record the following new members since our last meeting:

Maris Armfield (W)
Marianne Butler (SE)
Emma Griffiths (SE)

We record the following deaths:

Alistair Milner (E)
Bob Irving (W)
Phyllis Goodheir (W)
Christine Davis (W)
Jeanne Walmesley (SE)
Geoffrey Carnall (SE)
Bill Forbes (SE)

Min. 5 Dates and Venues for 2016-17

We propose the following GM dates and venues for 2016-17

East - 5 March 16 (already agreed)
West - 11 June 16
North - 10 Sept 16
East - 12/13 Nov 16
South East - 11 March 2017

General Meeting – 7 March 2015 in St Andrews

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

Min. 6 Tabular Statement 2014

We note the following numbers of members, attenders and children at 31st December 2014.

	2014			2013	2012	2011	2010
	Members	Attenders	Children	Members	Members	Members	Members
East	101	64	13	110	111	107	108
North	126	136	37	127	122	118	123
South East	236	267	83	232	247	254	265
West	231	196	58	223	227	228	224
TOTAL	694	663	191	692	707	707	720

Min. 7 Parliamentary Liaison Function Group

Elizabeth Allen has introduced our new Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Mairi Campbell-Jack. Mairi's priorities, agreed between the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group and Friends House are:

- Militarisation, with particular emphasis on militarisation in schools
- Trident
- The forthcoming General Election
- Social and economic justice

Elizabeth has spoken to a recommendation from the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group that GM should affiliate to Scottish CND in view of our longstanding opposition to nuclear weapons on moral grounds. We agree to this.

She has also spoken of the changing role of the Function Group and of ways to improve communications with Friends about the activities of the Function group and to encourage action by Friends. They also hope to hear from Meetings of concerns they would like to see taken up. They are proposing a twice-yearly look in GM at a particular topic under discussion at parliamentary level.

The question of commemorating the introduction of conscription in 1916 was referred to the Parliamentary Liaison Function Group and various ideas are being explored.

Min. 8 Financial Report for 2014

We have received the annual report and examined accounts for 2014 from our Treasurer, John Phillips. Total income, mainly from area meeting quotas and grants from Britain Yearly Meeting and the Camfield Trust, was £20,176. Payments totalled £18,833, giving a General Fund surplus for the year of £1343. Our expenditure in 2015 will increase by £10,000 due to our contribution to the cost of employing the Parliamentary Engagement Officer. This will be met partly from reserves and partly by an increase in area meeting quotas. We thank John for his clear explanation of the figures.

We authorise the Clerk to sign the Report, amended to include the priorities for the Parliamentary Engagement Officer as set out in minute 7.

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

Min. 9 Future of the Outreach Function Group

We agreed at GM last November that we would review the future of the Outreach Function Group following Pete Stuart's request to be released as convenor and his suggestion that outreach was better handled at area meeting level. We see a need for Scotland-wide enquirers weekends and suggest that an approach be made to South East and West Area Meetings to see if they would be willing to organise such events occasionally that would be advertised on a Scotland-wide basis. If this is possible, we will lay down the GM Outreach Function Group.

We ask the Clerk to contact Britain Yearly Meeting who are currently revising the BYM website to explore possible co-operation on a web presence in Scotland. We will consider communications issues further at our next meeting.

Min. 10 Report on Meeting for Sufferings

In view of the shortage of time, Jane Pearn referred us to her report in the Scottish Friend.

Min. 11 Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network

The Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network is an informal grouping of Friends with an interest in this area. We note that they prepared a submission to the Scottish government opposing the proposal to replace Cornton Vale with a new women's prison. This submission was published on the Quakers in Scotland website. We are pleased also to note that the Government has now abandoned this proposal.

Min. 12 First same sex Quaker marriage in Scotland

We are pleased to record that the first same sex Quaker marriage in Scotland between Tony Gross and Mark Bitel took place in Central Edinburgh Meeting House on 14th February.

Min. 13 General Meeting Administrator

Bronwen Currie, our Administrator, has indicated her wish to retire as soon as a replacement has been found. Trustees have advertised the post and interviews are to be held shortly. We thank Bronwen for her exemplary service in this post and record our best wishes for her retirement.

Min. 14 Nominations matters

Nominations Function Group have brought forward the following names and we agree to appoint them:

1. Representative Friend (Other Churches)

Pamala McDougall with immediate effect until June 2016 (to the end of Christine Davis' triennium)

2. Convenor of Parliamentary Liaison Function Group

Elizabeth Allen (reappointment) January 2016 to December 2017 (two years so that we can introduce a rolling system at the request of the Group)

3. Parliamentary Liaison Function Group (member West)

Heather Burns (1st triennium) with immediate effect until December 2017 (Margaret Mortimer has asked to be released)

- 4. Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Advisory Group** (and ex-officio member of Parliamentary Liaison Function Group)
Alastair Reid (2nd triennium) from Jan 2016 to Dec 2018
- 5. Children's and Young People's Convenor**
Robert Thompson (1st triennium) January 2016 to December 2018
- 6. Assistant Treasurer**
Duncan Wallace (2nd triennium) January 2016 to December 2018
- 7. Joint Faiths Advisory Board on Criminal Justice**
Mike Nellis (2nd triennium) January 2016 to December 2018
- 8. Religious Leaders Forum (Interfaith Scotland)**
Jim Pym (1st triennium) with immediate effect to December 2017 (to complete Christine Davis triennium)
- 9. Parliamentary Liaison Function Group (member North)**
Jane Booth (1st triennium) January 2016 to December 2018

Min. 15 Children in our Changing World

Madeleine Harding has encouraged us to consider various issues facing today's children and young people. We were challenged and enabled to engage with the issues of changing family patterns, self esteem, self image, bullying, social media, internet access/dangers and sexual relationships. We considered how we might support children, young people, parents and grand parents in our local Quaker communities. We thank Madeleine for her wide ranging and full presentation. (A summary of the points raised in discussion groups is attached to these minutes)

Min. 16 Closing Minute

We record our thanks to East Scotland Friends for being our hosts at this GM, and look forward to meeting again in Aberdeen in June.

Martin Burnell
 Clerk

Supporting families and Parents in our Quaker Meetings - Summary of discussion

- What support might children and young people need and how find it out?
- What support might parents or grandparents need and how can we find this out?
- How might you support children and young people who don't come to meeting?

WEST of SCOTLAND

- Residential events are important vehicles for supporting families and children and young people.
- They should include whole families. Family weekends are better than the former Kindrogan events as they are focused on children, but good for parents too.
- Outdoor locations are an advantage – as our recent Glasgow/Lanark family day at Wiston Lodge for tree planting. Activities focused on some activity, even simple ones, are a good basis.
- But the overall aim is to create a whole community of mutual support.
- Meetings often have problems of age range of children and young people, having a small group of children over a wide age range.
- A lack of providing unstructured time for children can be an issue.
- Non-parents in the meeting may have difficulties in feeling they can talk to children these days.
- Establishing significant others (often good when outside the immediate family) for young people this can be difficult.
- We noted that there can be positive aspects of social media for youngsters e.g. how the young people keep up with each other after Shindig.

SOUTH EAST SCOTLAND

- Ask children and young people what support they might need and listen to their responses.
- Offer them respect and friendship.
- Respond positively –be open to what they have to say.
- Single Quaker Parent in Family (SQIF) might mean that children and young people get mixed messages.

- How might you support C&YP who don't come to meeting?
- Northumbria AM – families for children with no other Quaker connections.
- Support even though they don't attend meeting.
- Bullying – encourage those being bullied to say "I don't like you doing/saying that".

EAST/NORTH SCOTLAND

- Quakers don't talk about sex much anyway so difficult to tackle this one
- Quakers have often had interesting, quite radical lives but they are not always forthcoming. Could this be a way forward?
- Providing opportunities and being open to discussing things
- Talking about relationships and Quaker values around them

The resource Madeleine mentioned on Saturday is *Journeys in the Spirit*. They cover lots of topics including bullying, Quaker Testimonies, marriage, dealing with a range of feelings and emotions as well as Quaker history and Quaker stories. The link to find these resources is: www.quaker.org.uk/archive-children. For the youth work edition go to: www.quaker.org.uk/archive-youth.