



May  
2011

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# Scottish Friend

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Pamala McDougall took the cover picture.

Please send material for next *Scottish Friend* by 31 July to Margaret Peacock, 16 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, G62 6LN, or preferably to [nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk).

For the front cover I like to publish photographs of your meeting places. Please go on sending me news, reports, thoughts and pictures. Many thanks to all who have made suggestions.

*Scottish Friend* will be posted on the General Meeting website at the same time as it goes to the printer. If you would like an email copy instead of a paper one, please email [scotfriends@gmail.com](mailto:scotfriends@gmail.com), to let Bronwen Currie know.

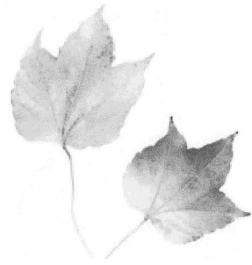
The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily those of the editor or any part of the Religious Society of Friends.



Montrose and Montrose Basin  
Friends met in Montrose for last General Meeting

Published by Quakers in Scotland, 01496 850 006  
[quakerscotland.org.uk](http://quakerscotland.org.uk)  
(British website: [quaker.org.uk](http://quaker.org.uk))  
Printed on recycled paper by  
Print Force, Milngavie, 0141 956 1052





## Meetings for worship at Faslane 2011

Sun 12 June

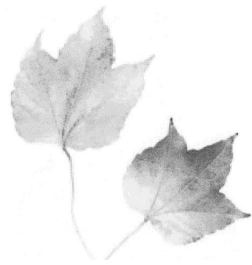
28 August

25 September

13 November

( Remembrance Sunday clashes with GM. )

Be waterproof, famineproof and cold/wet bumproof.



## TWO REPORTS FROM A MINI-REP.

Pamala McDougall

This report is written by one of the small pool of 'mini-reps' who attend events on behalf of GM when appropriate for continuity, geographical or special interest reasons, either to spread the load or when our GM Representative, Leslie Stevenson asks me!

### 450<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Reformation in Scotland.

On 3rd November 2010 I attended an ecumenical service in St Giles' cathedral, Edinburgh. It was good to have our Roman Catholic friends involved and a measure of how far in ecumenical terms we have come in Scotland, despite banners exclaiming 'Betrayal in St Giles' from around 20 members of the Scottish Protestant Group which lobbied us as we entered.

Cardinal Keith O'Brien shared presentation of the service with the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, John Christie, and the Primus of the Scottish Episcopal church,

David Chillingworth along with others. Lessons were read by the First Minister, Alex Salmond, the Presiding Officer, Alex Fergusson and the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, George Grubb. It was 'celebrity heavy' but what a joy for me to meet up with ACTS reps. and reps. from other churches who are committed to ecumenism in Scotland. It was a very uplifting, uniting service enhanced by the beautiful singing of the Edinburgh University Renaissance Singers.

After the service we were taken by minibus to the Great Hall at the Castle for a reception hosted by Alex Salmond. As it was a time leading up to Remembrance Day, and I am never one to pass an opportunity for Outreach, I commented to the First Minister on his metal badge which was a red poppy with a saltire background. Having admired it he generously presented it to me! Wearing both a red and a white poppy myself, I then offered him the white poppy which he took on the understanding he would not wear it as he said it was 'too political', but at least he carried it in his pocket for the rest of the evening and I had the chance to explain a bit about why I wore both!

Leslie was also present at the castle so Quakers were well represented. We enjoyed mixing with politicians, leaders and representatives of churches and many from other faiths and none – I spoke to the leader of the Humanist Society, for example. We were entertained by the Police Pipe Band and the Singers and heard (lengthy) speeches - but at least their hearts were in the right place!

Great fun - with a serious ecumenical and political intent.

## A PLACE FOR HOPE

Carberry Tower, Musselburgh, 25<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Friends may remember my account of the 4-day conference in Aviemore initiated by the Church of Scotland in November 2009 entitled 'Christianity, Conflict and the Soul of the Nation', when the

focus was on mediation and peace within and between the churches and the community.

It seemed appropriate for continuity having received the invitation that I attend a dinner and thanksgiving with an update on progress of the plans made at the conclusion of the original conference. One of the keynote speakers in Aviemore who made a lasting impression was Professor David Brubaker, an American Mennonite. He was present in Musselburgh to be involved in mediator training and joined us for the evening. He shared his background and work in mediation in the form of an interview with John Sturrock, who himself is a QC, mediator and leader of the Core Solutions Group which delivers training and coaching in mediation. Incidentally, our Friend Alastair McIntosh was one of the conference speakers in Aviemore.

One of the aims at the conclusion at the Aviemore conference was to set up a Mediation and Reconciliation Centre in Scotland – either real or virtual – and progress was reported in the part-time engagement of Hugh Donald who is a

recently retired lawyer to take this forward. Over a period of time prior to his retirement as chief executive of a law firm, Hugh became discontented with the process of dealing with disputes and more interested in mediation and sees this as part of his Christian ministry. He was instrumental in setting up a Family Mediation service in the Lothian region and was chairman of Family Mediation Scotland for 20 years. Now Donald is involved with the Place for Hope project and describes his work as ‘peacemaking and reconciling within our society’ which is why I think it resonates with Quaker work and what many of us are engaged with, and I hope to continue my interest in this project.

I was delighted to be joined by our GM clerk Robin Waterston for the evening event which once again emphasizes our commitment to ecumenical initiatives.

Please contact me for any further information about ‘Hope for Peace’ or go online to [www.placeforhope.org.uk](http://www.placeforhope.org.uk)

|

## Bahá'í New Year Celebration in the House of Commons.

22 March 2011

Margaret Peacock

I confess that much of the attraction of this invitation was the opportunity to admire the interior of the Houses of Parliament, as one does a cathedral - in particular the vaulted dome of the central lobby which is never shown in the TV news commentaries.

The Bahá'í new year happens at the vernal equinox, and is shared with the Zoroastrian new year and my birthday. Unlike them I had not just emerged from a month (19 days for them) of daylight fasting. I was enthusiastically welcomed as a Quaker, with whom their beliefs and lifestyle have much in common, and with whom they often work in interfaith groups.

The hosts were the parliamentary Friends of the Bahá'is, who try to use their influence to help the Bahá'is in Iran, who suffer constant government-sanctioned persecution. A particular cause has been the seven leaders who were arrested two years ago for espionage, but only brought to trial last year. Acquitted of espionage, they were nevertheless sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment - commuted to 10 years. The authorities were determined to get them anyway, so their pastoral care of their flock was declared illegal.

"Service" is an important word for Bahá'is. There were presentations about services undertaken by British Bahá'is - bringing about improvements to their communities by small steps. One had invited neighbours to discuss improvements; one had invited teenage boys of several ethnic backgrounds to meetings to promote mutual knowledge and respect. I also spoke with a charming girl student who had been working on a youth project in the Faroes in her gap year.

Bahá'í faith in a VERY small nutshell.

1. God is the creator, single, personal, eternal, omnipresent, purposeful
2. No clergy, no ritual, equality of men, women, people
3. Bahá'í life is prayer and service - inextricable
4. All major religions have been established by manifestations of God, from Krishna to Christ to Bahá'u'lláh.
5. Work for world peace, and never take up arms, even when persecuted.

I also met a diminutive woman Zoroastrian, who has been working with the UN on improving the lives of women. She established *UNIFEM*. I think. She has been working throughout the world, saying Tonga didn't need her - they just wait for the coconuts to fall - but south east Asia did. Zoroastrianism sounds like an enjoyable religion, from her account - I must look it up.

## John Wigham Enjoyment Trust - Asylum Group Evaluation

On Sunday 11th April 2010, Scottish Churches House had the privilege, with the help of the JWE Trust, to welcome a group of Asylum Seekers for a period of 4 days. The group consisted of;

One group worker from Glasgow YMCA (Lori Sullivan)

Five mothers from around the world, such as Eritrea and Iraq.

Eleven children.

This group had come from the same housing development where a Russian asylum seeker family had committed suicide so the break was welcomed by all as an opportunity to have some fun and to feel safe.

This trip was important to women and children because it was an opportunity to learn about other places in Scotland, a safe place to let the children run about freely, and is a chance to meet, relax and interact with other women who they don't know very well in a safe and private environment.

In response to the question as to why the group likes to return to Scottish Churches House, this is what was said by Lori, the group's organiser;

"We always feel warmly welcomed at SCH, even though it can be a tricky trip to organise. The women & children I've brought from YMCA over the years have always benefited a great deal from their stay as well as simply enjoying the holiday. The staff & volunteers at SCH are friendly and helpful and go out of their way to ensure that the complex needs of our residents are met. The self-contained nature of Leighton House means that the

women & children can relax in a way that they can only do in their own homes here so it suits this type of group very well indeed."



A guest takes her life in her hands at Blair Drummond Safari Park.

Quotes from some of the group...

"Already I wish we could go back to Dunblane."

"Me & my children are going back to visit for a day in June."

"Everyone at YMCA wants to come but we were the lucky ones."

"It was fantastic! I could just relax with other women and forget my worries for a while."



Kids play in Laighills Play Park.



Mums on the loose!

The YMCA Glasgow also contributed to the weekend, paying for: the minibus and other travel to/from Glasgow; food & refreshments; outings to Stirling Castle; and Ten Pin Bowling. With the money that the JWE Trust provided, Scottish Churches House was able to provide accommodation, transport to/from the Safari park as well as entry into the park. We also provided

a couple of volunteers to accompany on some activities with the families.

Things the group told us that they enjoyed most about their stay;

- \*Trips & outings
- \*Nice, private accommodation
- \*Safari Park \*Warm welcome
- \*Great play park \*Peace and quiet
- \*Walking in the lovely surroundings
- \*Being together with friends
- \*10-pin bowling

In total the total cost of the break is £834.46

Scottish Churches House and Glasgow YMCA would like to express its thanks to the John Wigham Enjoyment Trust for its kind donation that makes this short break possible !

## JOHN WIGHAM (ENJOYMENT) TRUST

We are in the happy situation of having a modest legacy to disburse. John Wigham directed that grants should be made to 'deserving persons resident in Scotland who owing to straitened circumstances are unable to enjoy the usual pleasures of life, the purpose of such grants being to provide the recipients with some additional comfort or pleasure of an exceptional nature over and above the usual necessities of life'.

We welcome applications from Quakers and non-Quakers resident anywhere in Scotland, for grants large or small. £500 will normally be the maximum. Applicants may obtain an application form and further information from :

Sylvia Massey, John Wigham (Enjoyment) Trust,  
22 Bruntsfield Gardens, Edinburgh, EH10 4EA .  
Phone number 0131 229 4238

Email: [sylviamassey293@btinternet.com](mailto:sylviamassey293@btinternet.com)

The completed form should be passed to a Quaker of long standing who is well known to their meeting, who will countersign it and forward it to the address above, to arrive by one of the deadlines of March 31st or September 30th. Applicants will normally hear the results of their application within 8 weeks of these deadlines.

More about YOU - we'd like to know! Bronwen Currie

Out of over 1500 adult members and attenders in Scotland we have only 73 on our skills and experience database! Wonderful as it is to have these (and thank you) we still have great need of information about younger Friends and attenders and their current professional (and voluntary) experience. For instance I was recently looking for a Friend involved in education, and found only two currently practising teachers on the database. I certainly don't believe that's all we have!

I appreciate that many of you have extremely busy lives, and perhaps are reluctant to do anything that might "let you in for" even more. But letting us know about your skills and experience doesn't commit you to doing anything, or giving up any more of your valuable time. We might be looking for someone to represent us at a meeting of government ministers, but saying no is perfectly acceptable. And quite often it might just be a professional opinion that's wanted, or information for someone else who is attending a meeting on our behalf.

Your data is kept securely and only divulged to someone who has a genuine need to know, such as our Representative Friend. So please, whether it's teaching, human trafficking, housing, wind turbines, web design, trees, or anything else that you know a lot about, if you haven't already done so, fill in a form and send it to me. The form can be downloaded at [http://www.quakerscotland.org/gmquestionnaires\\_forms](http://www.quakerscotland.org/gmquestionnaires_forms) and either posted or emailed to me ([scotfriends@gmail.com](mailto:scotfriends@gmail.com)), or if you don't have internet access phone me on 01496 850006 and I will post you a form.



You might just be the person we need!

Bronwen Currie  
GM Administrator

### 2011 Book of Members Errata

I'm not planning on making this a regular column, but since the new Book is just newly out and is set to last for the next two years, I thought it was only fair to publish an initial (and final!) list of corrections that were brought to my attention straightaway. So do please amend your books as follows:

- Eleanor Fairclough (Inverness LQM): email address should be rhfemf@btinternet.com
- Sylvia Massey (South Edinburgh LQM): email address should be sylviamassey293@btinternet.com
- Sheena Goulty (Perth LQM): email address is lcstudio@btinternet.com where the first character is the letter L, not number one.
- Beth Cross (South Edinburgh LQM) lives at 1 Law Place, not 11.
- And St Andrews' midweek Meeting is on a Thursday, not a Wednesday.

Bronwen Currie

### Telephone conferencing: an opportunity for inclusion and care of the environment

Kate Gulliver

West Scotland Area Meeting in March agreed to hold an additional experimental area meeting to enable more Friends to experience Meeting for Worship for Church Affairs by telephone conference before we consider including such meetings in next year's calendar. The idea of using telephone conferencing is not to replace the physical gathering together as Friends but to supplement it by providing a way of friends gathering to consider business without the need for travelling. Holding area meeting by telephone conferencing will:

- enable Friends who cannot attend due to time or travel constraints to take part in the consideration of the business.
- reduce the risk of cancellation or poor attendance due to weather or travel disruption.
- reduce the amount of travelling required thereby helping in our concern for the environment.

The working group have looked at the practicalities of holding a meeting for Worship for Church Affairs by telephone and feel that as long as Friends follow the Quaker process the system lends itself for much of our routine business. The group did not feel that it would be appropriate for matters requiring extended discernment; these items are best saved for the physical gathering as a corporate body.

#### **So how will it work and how much will it cost?**

Area meeting by telephone will require a bit more preparation by the Clerk and Friends presenting reports. Written reports and draft minutes will need to be circulated prior to the meeting, as well as the agenda. It is hoped that anyone presenting a report will also join the

meeting to be able to answer questions and give any additional information that might be required.

Local Meeting Clerks will need to inform the Assistant Clerk of who has been appointed to attend the meeting so that the Assistant Clerk knows who is going to be joining the call. The system can accommodate up to 50 callers, though it may be possible for several Friends to join together to share the same telephone link.

You will need to arrange to have a quiet space for worship with access to the telephone and no interruptions or distractions. On the day you will need the telephone number and PIN for the call, the back-up number in case you have any difficulties connecting, and all the papers. You will need time to have coffee and read through the reports and draft minutes before you start the Meeting for Worship at 11am. The details for the reading during worship will be included in the agenda. At 11.30am you will dial into the system. The automated system will ask your name; it will then announce your name to the rest of the group and connect you to the call. Once everyone has joined the call the Assistant Clerk will begin the roll call - please wait for the Assistant Clerk to invite you to speak.

When the meeting is ready the Clerk will introduce the business and the normal business practice will be followed. If you wish to speak please give your name and meeting and then wait; this is the equivalent of rising to your feet and waiting to be called by the Clerk. The Assistant Clerk will then invite you to speak. If two or more people give their names at the same time, please listen for whom the Assistant Clerk calls; he will keep a note of who has given their names and will ask them if they still wish to speak after the other person has spoken, so you not need to give your name again. When invited to speak please give your name and meeting, this may appear repetitious but it enables the other members of the meeting to hear your voice and

if you are not heard alert the Assistant Clerk before you begin ministry.

Please remember that this is a meeting for worship for church affairs and follow our practice of receiving ministry in worship and allowing space between contributions.

When it appears that all contributions have been made the Assistant Clerk will ask for a further period of silence for any final contributions to be made. The Clerk will then prepare and present the draft minute in the usual manner.

Once all the business has been concluded the Clerk will ask for silence during which the minutes will be signed. The meeting will then be closed and you may end the call.

The host, area meeting, will pay the conference fee and then each caller will pay for their call on their own telephone bill. The service uses an 0844 number so is not usually included in a providers call packages so the cost of the call will be added to the caller's telephone bill. We anticipate the call will last up to 90 minutes and be charged at 4.3p/minute plus VAT. This would result in a total cost of around £5 – 6.

The working group have prepared a guidance sheet which will be circulated to local meeting clerks. WSAM hopes to develop the system for the benefit of all the Society.

(Reprinted from West Scotland newsletter)

## West Scotland Area Meeting Guidance for teleconference Area Meeting

One - two weeks before

- \* Inform the Assistant Clerk that you will be joining the call.

On the day

- \* Have you got the telephone number, PIN and the back-up number?
- \* Have you read the agenda, reports and draft minutes
- \* Have you arranged a quiet space for worship with access to the telephone?

10.30am Gather for coffee and read through papers

11am Meeting for worship, please include the reading specified in the papers

11.30am Join the call.

- \* Roll call
- \* Clerk will introduce the business.
- \* If you wish to speak to give your name and meeting and then wait for the Assistant Clerk to call you
- \* Give your name and meeting again at the start of your ministry

Please remember that this is a meeting for worship for church affairs and follow our practice of receiving ministry in worship and allowing space between contributions.

- \* When it appears that all contributions have been made the Assistant Clerk will ask if there are any final contributions.
- \* The Clerk will prepare and read the minute
- \* If you wish to speak give your name and meeting and

wait to be called.

- \* Once all the business has been concluded the Clerk will ask for silence during which the minutes will be signed.

- \* The meeting will then be closed, you may end the call and go for lunch

We hope you find this guidance helpful. If you would like further explanation please contact any member of the Teleconference working group, Kate Gulliver (Ayrshire), Ian MacDonald (Wigtown), Margaret Peacock (Milngavie), Malcolm Crosby (Lanark).



## Meeting for Sufferings 2.4.11

Margaret Peacock

"It makes me proud to be a Quaker". A very competent Clerk facilitated a textbook Quaker business meeting, at great emotional cost to herself. I hope she was able to sleep all the next day!

We began with the trustees' report, which spoke about the current reorganisation of office space, which will enable more cross-department cooperation - as specified by the Framework for Action - by being more open-plan. More rooms will then be available for hiring. Huge tribute was paid to the staff, some of whom will have to move twice in this fifteen-puzzle dance.

The 125-year lease of Courtauld House for student accommodation has been finalised - for £6.5M - but we were instructed not to get too excited about it, as most has been allocated already, especially for the refurbishment of the large meeting house, for which we have the services of an artist "in light and space" and an architect. The aspiration of an "iconic" design was easily converted to "eye-catching", when a Friend enquired whether we would be installing altars as well.

In our discussion of boycotting goods from Israeli settlements, we were directed to move on from last meeting, and the Clerk called first for an account from a returned Ecumenical Accompanier of the reaction of Jewish peace organisations. I lost count of the long list of supporters, which included NGOs and the organisation against house demolition, and Jewish Voice for Peace. Our Friends in Ramallah have commended the boycott, as have Palestinian Christians, via the Kairos document. There seems no other way to get through to the implacable

Israeli government. A boycott, however, appears to be effective in some way, since commending the boycott is about to be made into a criminal offence. Economically the boycott will be a fleabite: it is the publicity that counts.

At least three people spoke of a boycott being the Right Thing To Do, following the example of John Woolman. It became clear that doing the right thing takes precedence over anxiety about the consequences - of which we had passionate warnings. We were reminded that doing nothing amounts to supporting the powerful, and that social workers view it as normal that the abused becomes the abuser.

We must be careful to explain that the reason for the boycott is one of justice - preventing profit from stolen land. This boycott is a non-violent means of pointing out the illegality, rather than taking sides.

Boycotting all Israeli goods was left to the conscience of individual Friends, leading as it does to controversy about pots and kettles, and the issue of taking sides. Goods from Israeli settlements are not often labelled as such, but some supermarkets have yielded to pressure. Please keep visiting the main Quaker website [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk) to see the list as it becomes updated. Find it by typing "settlement goods list" into the search box. The Jews have been very quick to react to our decision. The article in the Jewish Chronicle was measured and sensible, whereas individuals responded emotionally, quoting history, to Friends' House and to members of the Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations. There are various versions and interpretations of history! A Jewish lady said to me that the repressive attitude of the checkpoint soldiers was only due to fear of suicide bombers, and that she just wanted to live in peace with her Palestinian neighbours. We must support her

aspiration by any means we can.

We heard that our memorial in the National Arboretum will have a cylindrical wall, giving access to space for quiet worship.

The final item of Sufferings was a preliminary exploration of "What makes our Area Meetings successful?" This matter will be taken up again in October, and responses from AMs are sought. One minute was received which I quote here.

We have been considering ways of developing our AM as a more attractive, inclusive, and spiritually alert body. We do not consider ourselves to be a fragile meeting, but we are vulnerable - our AM is sustained by about thirty or so faithful Friends who attend AM regularly across considerable distances; few, if any, are under retirement age. We are concerned that there is a strong congregational feeling among many Friends, who do not sense it is any part of their membership to do more than attend and support their own local meeting. We are further concerned that, while there is much support provided for local meetings in the centrally managed work, the relevance of area meetings to individual members and a centre for our spiritual life receives little recognition or support. Meeting for Worship for Business, rightly held, with opportunities for discernment and encountering the spirit, has a capacity to transform just as much as a silent Meeting for Worship.

*"the Friends' business meeting is not just a peculiar Quaker form of getting things done; rather it should be seen as an essential part of the spiritual formation and spiritual growth of every seasoned Friend for it is that place through which we learn to walk hand in hand with each other and the Spirit out into the world to do the work of committed and obedient disciples"*

Pendle Hill pamphlet 406

GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND  
HELD IN MONTROSE ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011  
HOSTED BY EAST OF SCOTLAND FRIENDS

Anne Davies

Hurray for Tobermory! David Harper has told us about the Tobermory Friends Meeting. This is a most exhilarating new addition to our worshipping groups. The Meeting takes place once a month in the harbour lighthouse, and has got off to a most promising start. Visitors are most welcome and encouraged to come.

51 Friends attended GM coming from East, North, South East and West Scotland. Five new members and three deaths were chronicled.

The draft dates for future GMs were considered: 3.3.12 East (agreed); 9.6.12 S.E: 8.9.12 N: 17/18.11.12 E and 2.3.13 in West Scotland. Dates will be finalised at the June GM. It was agreed to keep the same pattern for Residential GM i.e. in November.

In the morning session various reports were presented. Phil Lucas reported that the Same Sex Marriage Working Group had met, albeit without some of its members, first in Edinburgh, on the phone and meeting up with MSPs from all parties. The group had had useful advice from Michael Bartlet, Parliamentary Liaison Officer at Friends House. Phil has also attended a Marriage Equality Symposium. A recent survey in Scotland has showed a significant support for same sex marriages. Spain and South Africa have moved much further on this issue (marriage for same sex couples) than the UK. Phil Lucas observed that there was not much evidence of prioritising the

Bill in the Scottish Parliament. GM asked the nomination functions group convenor to bring forward additional nominations and review the membership of the group.

Margaret Peacock gave an update on the Scottish Churches House which will very soon close its doors due to the lack of bookings leading to difficulty with cash flow, maintenance and so on. New leases are being sought to be responsible for upkeep and responsible bookings. Possible tenders are also being sent out for alternative use to include fully worked out business plans. The work of Scottish Churches House over the years has been much appreciated, but its time has come with much more non-residential Inter Church activity now.

Philip Bryers introduced a report on ACTS Social Inclusion Network. This network is associated with the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office and is partly financed by the Scottish Government. Various speakers have addressed the group: representing Scottish Government – Alex Neill, and local authorities – Pat Watters. The Scottish Parliamentary Officer, Chloe Clemmons, has suggested a new arrangement for working, devolving more responsibility to Member Churches, to devise flexibility for their work plans. This is of particular interest for Quakers - topics now include Criminal Justice and Alternatives to Violence. The network will in future be called Scottish Churches Poverty and Social Justice Network.

Peter Kennedy reported on the work of Meeting for Sufferings. Amongst other topics discussed was the lease of Courtauld House (The American University has now left); sustainable Meeting Houses: organising Experiment with Light programme: YM gathering and representations to Parliament

regarding the detention of children. There was discussion on whether local meetings wished to continue tackling issues of Palestine. We welcomed the young (forties year old!) Peter Parker as new Recording Clerk to be BYM. I think the large Meeting House is under discussion to be redeveloped.

Various Appointments were made.

#### End of Life Questions: issues of dying and death

The afternoon session was introduced by GM Clark Robin Waterston. He explained that we were not about to produce any definitive statement or come to any particular conclusion, but through prayerful thought and exchange of views and experiences we could explore this subject together, suggesting that we start with a period of worship, break into small groups and come back for a plenary session.

Humans are probably unique in being able to contemplate their own death. Are we privileged to have a choice? How can we allow for a place for mourning? How far has the process of dying changed through the advances of science? How far can we practically and spiritually prepare for death? Can we see death as natural, incorporating it into our lives? Can we ever make rules for every individual circumstance, including legislative provision on moral issue in a multi faith society?

Some contributions stressed the need for more investment in hospices and better palliative care and strengthening neighbourhood communities. Others expressed strong opposition to some provisions in the Bill.

We were glad to have this opportunity to express our views on this deeply felt issue. The Bill fell in the last Session of the 2010 Parliament.

Local Meetings were invited to continue this exploration should they wish.

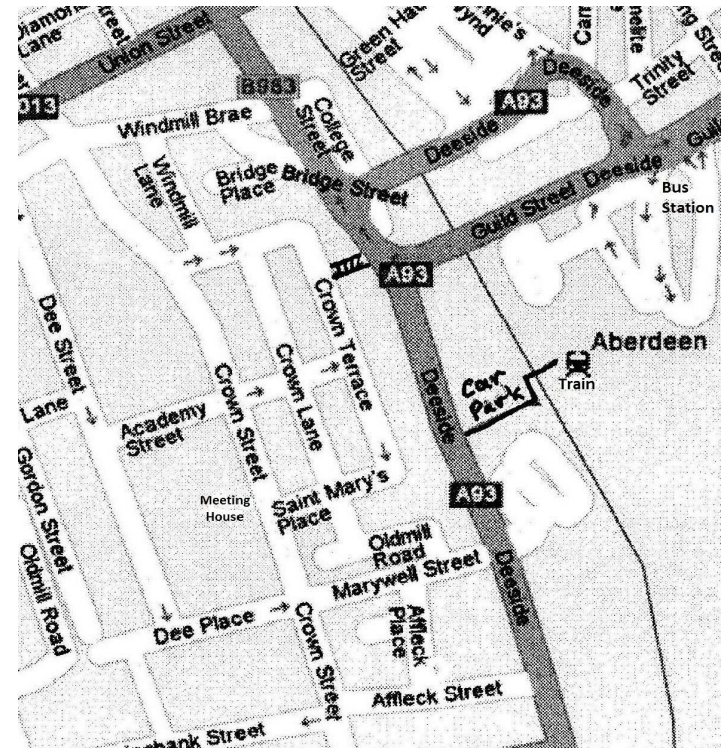
Our thanks were expressed for the splendid hospitality of East Scotland Friends. We did not leave hungry- spiritually or physically.



Clerks at the table

Photograph by Andrew Farrar

General Meeting for Scotland - Aberdeen 4 June 2011



Inside the station, go over the footbridge and through the multi-storey car park. Turn left and cross at the traffic lights to go up Affleck Street, then right at Crown Street. To avoid steps, go outside the station and left along Guild Street, then right up Bridge Street, left at Union Street, left again at Crown Street. The Meeting House is on the right by the motor bike shop.

*“In our meetings for worship we seek through the stillness to know God's will for ourselves and for the gathered group. Our meetings for church affairs, in which we conduct our business, are also meetings for worship based on silence, and they carry the same expectation that God's guidance can be discerned if we are truly listening together and to each other, and are not blinkered by preconceived opinions. It is this belief that God's will can be recognised through the discipline of silent waiting which distinguishes our decision-making process from the secular idea of consensus.”*

*Quaker Faith and Practice 3.02*

Dear Friends and Attenders throughout Scotland,

Our meeting in September will be in Aberdeen. We start at 11 am, tea and coffee available from 10.30 am. Please bring your own lunch. Refreshments will be provided after the meeting, which is expected to end about 4 pm.

Meetings for Worship for Business are one of the most central, distinctive and powerful aspects of our life as a religious community. We are blessed with a decision-making process that enables us to live our testimonies to equality, integrity, peace and simplicity when conducting our internal affairs. But how many of us have had to learn by osmosis how our Business Method "works"? This is an issue which Young Friends have encountered. They are eager to ensure that something which might become an administrative burden carried by a small inner circle of Friends should be truly valued by everyone as a source of spiritual enrichment, and some of them will be with us in the afternoon to give us what they describe as "an enriching and entertaining session" which should offer new insights both to relative newcomers and to long-established Friends.

Please join us in Aberdeen, meet new Friends, and reflect on our business method. Do please encourage anyone from your Meeting to come who may not have attended GM before. Chapter 3 of QFP would be useful preparatory reading.

Robin Waterston, Clerk