Tayside Quaker

Vol 48 No3 July 2023



Contents

Editorial	Page 3
The Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation	Page 3
Book of Discipline Revision Committee - July 2023 meeting	Page 4
George Fox 400 Birthday Pack	Page 8
75 th Anniversary Quaker United Nations Office	Page 9
Options for Change Consultation	Page 10
TPNW Anniversary	Page 11
East Scotland Area Meeting Saturday 12 th August	Page 12
News from our Meetings	Page 13
Central European Gathering (CEG) Gdansk, Poland	Page 15
Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends House and online July	Page 16
Changing structures for the benefit of Quakers in Scotland - 2	Page 18

Tayside Quakeris available by email and on paper. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the editor at **petercheer@hotmail.com**

If you get Tayside Quaker by email, you have the advantages of receiving it earlier and seeing the pictures in colour. It also saves the AM money.

Contributions are welcome, closing date for the next edition is 10th November Please send copy to the editor, Peter Cheer

petercheer@hotmail.com

East Scotland Area Meeting
Scottish charity number SC0020698
All opinions in Tayside Quaker are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of The Religious Society of Friends.

Editorial

I have been editing Tayside Quaker for three years, nominations committee has asked me if I am willing to serve for anther three year term and said that they are impressed with what I have been doing. It is always nice to be given compliments but a large part of what makes Tayside Quaker is our community of contributors and readers. Contributions for Tayside Quaker are always welcome, if you have an idea for an article or have a rough outline and want some guidance on how to polish it up do let me know.

As editor I have some power and discretion but do not know everything and am far from infallible. If you have ideas or suggestions about how Tayside Quaker could be developed or improved please do contact me. I am only the editor, this is your newsletter.

Peter Cheer

The Scottish Human Rights Bill Consultation

The Scottish Government has published the consultation for the Human Rights Bill. This is one of the biggest steps forward in human rights in Scotland, because the Bill will embed major international human rights treaties and the right to a healthy environment into Scots law.

It is crucial that everyone has a chance to have their voices heard in the consultation. Your response will help to shape Scotland's human rights future.

- To read the Consultation in full https://www.gov.scot/publications/human-rights-bill-scotlandconsultation/pages/3/
- To read the Consultation in Easy Read https://www.gov.scot/publications/human-rights-bill-scotlandconsultation-easy-read/
- To read the Scottish Government's guide to the Consultation

- https://www.gov.scot/publications/human-rights-bill-scotland-guideconsultation/
- To listen to an audio summary of the Consultation https://soundcloud.com/scotgov/sets/human-rights-bill-consultation-summary-version

The Human Rights Consortium is running an online events to find out why the consultation matters to you, and how to take part. Every session in the series covers the same core content, then some of the sessions also have a specific focus. They will run from mid-August until mid-September, details and links to other resources are available on their website at https://hrcscotland.org/the-scottish-human-rights-bill-consultation-is-out-now/

Book of Discipline Revision Committee - July 2023 meeting

Your committee met at Woodbrooke for the last time over the weekend of 14-16 July 2023. We were delighted to be together again, and achieved an impressive amount of work – all tinged with the sadness of having to say goodbye to a beloved place which has played such an important part in our work so far. A moving part of our weekend was the opportunity on Saturday night to share memories of Woodbrooke: a very deep and rich session appreciated by all those who took part.

One of our number was prevented by ill health from joining us, and another joined us on line. Paul Parker, our Recording Clerk, was with us for the whole weekend, meaning he got a very good idea of how we are progressing and was able to offer advice and information where appropriate. It was good to be reassured that we are making progress: it's very easy to lose sight of the overall picture when you're embroiled in a particular topic's complexities.

The agenda included plenty of time for us to share how we are, or are not, coping with our current workload. It was re-emphasised that it's okay to say no to taking on more work! We revisited our decision last year to appoint named pastoral friends – it was felt that they were useful and that a more formal appointment should be made. Our nominating group were asked to find three names, one each to be appointed for one, two, and three years, in addition to discerning names for other committee appointments.

We spent a lot of time sharing experiences of, and learnings from, the feedback we received on the draft Nominations and Marriage texts. Those Friends who were appointed to deal with the feedback received around 168xA4 pages of response, some from individuals, some a collection of responses from e.g. local or area meetings. Others reported on Friends' contributions during 'visits' by members of the committee, or in conversation. While we are keen to ensure that Friends are aware of our work, we also need to be very specific about what sort of feedback we are asking for, and what we hope to learn from it.

Much of the feedback was positive, confirming that the work needs to be done and we are working along the right lines: of course, there was some criticism, too, sometimes rather forcefully expressed. Some Friends voiced a concern that the words of the Marriage Declaration currently make no provision for people who would prefer not to use 'god language'. This matter is not within our remit, and we agreed to pass it to Meeting for Sufferings for their consideration.

Friends' feedback will be taken on board as we continue our work, as is that from individual committee members assigned as 'readers' for topic papers which have reached the point where an 'outside eye' can give valuable assistance. We considered a lot of papers over this weekend. Some are works in progress, some possibly nearing completion and ready to be 'banked' for now. Three written in the committee's early days, had needed the attention of a reader because the groups that worked on them had been laid down,.

On a personal note, I and the other members of the writing group were heartened at the very positive response to our paper on Worship. We had got our noses so close to the paper, and we had done so much intensive work immediately before the committee weekend, that we couldn't see the overall shape of the piece. It was a relief to hear real appreciation of our text and the fact that it includes a large amount of narrative/ explanatory text surrounding the extracts we had chosen. It was also heartening to be told that the piece only needed small 'tweaks' and could be banked once these were done – we had been expecting to carry on working on it until our next committee meeting in October.

Other papers were also deemed ready or virtually ready to be banked: somer begun more recently, were proffered by their writing groups to check that they were on the right lines, and/ or whether anything crucial was missing. Three new topics had writers and readers assigned to

them: Faithful Lives, Personal Journeys, and Funerals. I was delighted to join the last-named group, and have the opportunity to work on a fairly self-contained and uncontroversial topic with two committee members with whom I've not previously worked. We've already set up a first meeting to discuss our task, and I'm intrigued to have been told by one of them that 'they work in a very unusual and unorthodox way' — I can't wait to find out what that is!

New groups were also set up to work on our very early text on Spiritual and Pastoral Care; to develop our work on Diversity and Inclusion into a separate piece of text. Another group will think about how we include 'anthology material' [extracts from others' writings] that is not contained in the main narrative text of our book [especially the church government sections] but which needs to be present to indicate the deep richness of our written heritage and more recent writing of which many Friends may be unaware. We have also set up a group to start looking at how we might approach creating the overall structure of our book, to help us when we reach the stage of 'opening the box' of banked texts and seeing how they might fit together.

Your committee also looked at the timeline we agreed last year. We were heartened to see that we are further ahead with some of our work than the plan had suggested. However, our work is also pointing out things we didn't include in the plan, like further developing early texts and adding new topics to our list as they become apparent. The group working on diversity and inclusion within the whole book have realised that there needs to be a discrete text on this subject. We will also need to work more on Advices & Queries once our draft text nears completion.

Paul Parker's emphasising "proximity to points of no return" was extremely helpful. Our timeline has important points which impinge on the work of other parts of Yearly Meeting – dates by which certain parts of our work <u>have</u> to be completed if they are to be able to be presented to Yearly Meeting as a whole. We have to take into account when and how we are going to need help from Friends House staff and how this will fit into the timetable of all the other work they do. We also need to work closely with Yearly Meeting Agenda Committee – not least in agreeing 'who does what' when we prepare to share our final draft with the Yearly Meeting. Paul was able to assure us that, because our work requires this, we would be given permission to have two in person

committee meetings next year, and should also ask to do this in subsequent years.

It was becoming clear that the work doesn't stop once initial draft-writing nears completion – in fact, it might only be beginning! There are so many other things to consider: one committee member commented that we have had a very relaxed few years and that the next few may well get more intense. It was thought that the committee might take a temporary break from formal 'visits' to LMs, AMs and other interested groups, though we would continue to run sessions at Yearly Meeting, and individual members could continue with ad hoc sessions where they felt able.

We need to take care of ourselves, each other and of the committee as a whole. Individuals might have to consider asking for temporary release from other service, or delay taking on anything new. I was feeling slightly apprehensive about this potentially increased work load, and was greatly heartened when our co-clerk, Rosie Carnall, said "I back us to do this... we've got this, Friends, we just need to stay the course".

Many of us arrived at Woodbrooke feeling somewhat overburdened and even disheartened about our work. Being together again has reenergised us and given us the strength and inspiration to continue our task. We look forward to meeting again in October at the University of Warwick.

Once again, Friends, please continue to uphold us – we cannot do this work alone: we rely on you to help and support us.

Our key messages:

- 1 We have spent time reviewing the responses from Friends to the draft texts of 2 topics for the new book (Marriage, and Nominations) that we had shared. We are grateful for what we have learned from this feedback which will now inform our work going forward.
- 2 We have sent a minute to Meeting for Sufferings regarding changes to the marriage declaration suggested in this feedback that are beyond the remit of our Committee.
- 3 Consideration continues regarding how we make our book accessible and inclusive: planning for multiple accessible formats; making it clear

when quotations are introduced; including useful cross-referencing; and ensuring that a sufficient inclusivity and diversity of Quaker voices across Britain are included in the final version.

4 We have reviewed our progress in relation to our overall project plan that aims to offer a complete first full draft of the new book to Yearly Meeting 2027, and are pleased that we remain on track.

Mary Woodward

George Fox 400 Birthday Pack



Illustration by Marcela Terán/Liberation Works

"I was born in the month called July in the year 1624, at Drayton-in-the-Clay in Leicestershire" — From the first page of George Fox's Journal

Plans are underway to celebrate the 400th anniversary of the birth of Quaker co-founder George Fox in 2024 through intergenerational events and activities that share the stories that connect us.

To support Quaker meetings, Friends churches, schools and other bodies to organise events & activities, a birthday pack is now ready featuring children's stories, a dramatic monologue, Bible study and prompts for worship sharing, as well as ideas for possible songs, meditations and courses.

It can be downloaded from https://fwcc.world/fox/

75th Anniversary of the Quaker United Nations Office

2023 marks 75 years since the Quakers United Nations Office (QUNO) was founded in 1948. QUNO speaks in the name of FWCC at the United Nations

and related institutions.

QUNO's consistent commitment to speaking with integrity, lifting up the voices of those on the margins and bringing to light diverse perspectives, insights, and concerns, has led Quakers to be recognised as trusted partners who create space for new and creative solutions in response to global challenges.

Successes over the years include:

- Contributing to the ban on the use of anti-personnel mines and the ban on the use of children in armed conflict
- Securing recognition of the right to conscientious objection to military service
- Galvanising support for global efforts to eradicate the trade of illicit small arms and light weapons
- Advocating and building support for the inclusion of peace in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- Relaxation of intellectual property rules to improve access to vital life-saving medicines to all people with HIV/Aids
- Helping develop the UN Community Engagement Guidelines for Peacebuilding and Sustaining Peace

On 9 June, over 140 Friends, colleagues and supporters gathered in New York City for a special event to to mark the rich, 75-year history of the Quaker UN Office.

The evening's program welcomed student musicians from Brooklyn Friends School who provided musical performances to kick-off and close out the evening. The keynote address, delivered by Ambassador Olof Skoog of the European Union, highlighted the impact of QUNO's work at the UN and drew attention to the urgent need of Quaker working methods in today's divided world. Remarks were also provided by Sarah Clarke, Director of the Quaker United Nations Office in New York, Cheryl Morden, co-clerk of the Quaker UN

Committee (New York), and Joyce Ajlouny, General Secretary of the American Friends Service Committee.

Reproduced from (https://fwcc.world/new-75th-anniversary-of-the-quaker-united-nations-office/) where there is also a video of the event.

Hiroshima Day event



I realise that this event may have passed by the time that most of you get your copies of Tayside Quaker but it is important to mark Hiroshima Day, besides the outreach possibilities that such events give. ADD PIC

When: Saturday 6th August 2023

Where: Rodney Gardens, by the Peace Pole

Time: 2pm for approximately an hour

Members of Perth Quakers will hold a short silent witness for peace, followed by a social gathering at the Peace Pole in Rodney Gardens. All are welcome to join us. Bring along a poem, song or similar to share - and a seat if you need one. For further information contact: skcranwell@hotmail.com

Illegal Migration Act

As the government's illegal migration bill passes the Lords, Quakers in Britian have joined 289 organisations to uphold and stand alongside those affected.

The joint statement warns that the Act abandons the UK's moral and legal obligations, risking the breach of multiple international human rights treaties including the Refugee Convention.

The Act will force people into situations that threaten their lives, it says, whether by placing children in detention or sending people off to countries where their lives might be at grave risk.

The Illegal Migration Bill had a choppy progress through parliament, with the Lords making repeated amendments.

And the actual implementation of the Act is unclear. The government now has a legal duty to detain and remove those arriving in the UK illegally, either to Rwanda or another 'safe' country.

But the Court of Appeal ruled the Rwanda plan unlawful last month, and there are no deals with other countries.

Under this legislation there is no way for refugees to claim asylum in the UK if they arrive through unauthorised means.

But the government accepts virtually no asylum routes as legal. All refugees except for Ukrainians and those from Hong Kong are "inadmissible".

They therefore fall back on the very small boats crossing the Channel that the government is trying to prevent.

This legislation will result in a de facto 'asylum ban', the UN Refugee Agency said in March.

"[This Act] turns our country's back on people seeking safety, blocking them from protection, support and justice at a time they need it most," signatories including Greenpeace, Oxfam and Save the Children wrote.

Quakers believe that in every person, every homeless child, every refugee, every worker or preacher, there is a child of God. This has led to a longstanding commitment to welcoming people seeking sanctuary.

Reproduced from Quakers in Britain https://www.quaker.org.uk/news-and-events/news/quakers-condemn-passage-of-the-government-s-senselessly-cruel-illegal-migration-act

East Scotland Area Meeting Saturday 12th August

Time: 11.00 - 1.15pm. Please note change in starting time. Drinks will be available from 10.30. Bring your own lunch if you'd like to stay on afterwards.

Venue: In person at the AK Bell Library, Perth and on Zoom. AK Bell Library, 2-8 York Place, Perth PH2 8EP. 4 minutes' walk from the bus station, 7 minutes' walk from the train station. Library car park £1.40 per hour.

Dear Friends, please come and join us on 12th August for a blended Area Meeting. You can either come to the AK Bell Library in Perth or attend on Zoom. The agenda and other papers will be circulated before the meeting, along with a link to the Zoom meeting.

Agenda to include:

- · Consideration of a report from the Options for Scotland 2 group to assist Area Meetings and General Meeting in finding a clear way forward.
- · A report from our Nominations Committee.
- · Reflections on membership following a request from Meeting for Sufferings that Area Meetings consider this. Why do we have membership? Is it still necessary? What form should it take?
- · Update on the work of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group.
- Membership matters.
- · Safeguarding Adoption of Scottish Model Policy for safeguarding. We encourage Friends to view this document in advance; it has been approved by General Meeting trustees and is now available on the General Meeting website. https://www.quakerscotland.org/general-meeting

All are welcome – members and attenders. Please do join us!

Alice Curteis Assistant Clerk

News from Local Meetings St Andrews

Since the last Tayside Quaker our Meeting has been focusing on all our Ffriends who are needing our support. Our needs change with time and several are now not able to attend MfW. It has been a time of much busyness.

Sadly we have lost two Friends, Rosina Gentle and Gill Conacher. We held a Meeting to Celebrate the Life of Rosina in Brewster Wells Crematorium on Wednesday 31st May where Family and Friends were able to share the richness of her life. Gill Conacher had a service in Holy Trinity on Friday 16th June where Friends and Family joined together in celebrating her life. We learnt so much more of their lives and achievements.

Through the years we have had the opportunity of welcoming many students from overseas and from within the UK to both our Thursday and Sunday MfW. This past year we said goodbye to two students from the United States who had been regular attenders and became friends. This year both Hannah and Magda returned and we were able to meet up and worship together and to learn all that they were now involved with. Magda returned for her graduation in June, Hannah to briefly visit friends who would be leaving University this year.

Our dear Friends, Joyce Taylor and Huw Lloyd-Richards are returning to Glasgow after 21 years worshipping here at St Andrews. As in usual, Quaker style, we had a cake and strawberries to send them on their way. Joyce and Huw have brought so much to our Meeting and both will be missed. However we recognised that we needed to be thankful for their years of loving support and we wish them well in this next stage of their lives. As Joyce pointed out "we are only going to Glasgow!"

Perth

Numbers attending Perth Meeting have been smaller over the summer months with Friends away on holiday, so we have been pleased to welcome visitors both from the UK and further afield. Occasional Meetings for Worship are held in Pitlochry at Alyson Buchan's home. Gathering to sing before Meeting for Worship has been a positive experience for those taking part, valuable preparation for our Meeting.

A few Friends continue to join Meeting for Worship via Zoom and we have discussed ways of making this experience as positive as possible, both for those on Zoom and those in Subud. We have been delighted to have some of the children back with us in person and to hear about their activities.

On 29 July, some Friends joined the family of Irene Allan to celebrate her life on what would have been her 100th birthday. Irene lived for over 55 years in her house in Kinross, moving to Balhousie Ruthven Towers Care Home in Auchterarder where she passed away earlier this year with her daughter Ivory at her side. Irene's family (Frank, Matthew, Ivory and John) write: 'Our mother had an outstanding career as one of the first women to qualify as an architect in Scotland. She was a staunch Quaker and a committed campaigner who believed in action to bring change, particularly in the area of animal welfare.' Perth Friends also remember her for her friendship and her very warm welcome when we visited.

Our remembrance of Hiroshima Day will take place on 6 August with Friends and supporters meeting at the Peace Pole in Rodney Gardens for a short silent witness for peace, followed by a social gathering, sharing poems and music.

Felicity Bryers

Statement about the continuing war in Ukraine

Northern Friends Peace Board met in Darlington at the begining of July and issued this statement about the continuing war in Ukraine

For more than nine years, the Russo-Ukrainian war has been raging in Eastern Ukraine, having begun as a low level conflict between irregular paramilitary forces. Largely forgotten outside Ukraine, it has caused widespread suffering, and the deaths of numerous soldiers and civilians on both sides. Since the Russian invasion on 24 February 2022, the war has expanded, with massive attacks of regular armed forces, battles of relentless attrition in the East and with endless missile and drone attacks, many targeted at civilian infrastructure and housing. During this period opportunities for meaningful peace negotiations were missed.

The destruction of the Nova Kakhovka dam highlights the war's consequences, not just immediately for Ukrainians living along the Dnipro River and for the people of Crimea, but also in its long-term damage to the ecology of the Black Sea region and the global food supply. In this context, an end to the fighting and destruction seems ever more unlikely, and reaching a peace settlement still more elusive. The inevitability of a long war appears to be accepted by many in Ukraine, Russia and the West.

Quakers have long believed war is wrong, and testified to this in the midst of the Second World War: The savage momentum of war drags us all in its wake. ... War is hardening our hearts. In such an atmosphere no true peace can be framed. True peace involves freedom from tyranny and a generous tolerance; conditions that are denied over a large part of Europe and are not fulfilled in other parts of the world. But true peace cannot be dictated, it can only be built in co-operation between all peoples. None of us, no nation, no citizen, is free from some responsibility for this situation with its conflicting difficulties. Now is the time to issue an open invitation to co-operate in creative peacemaking, to declare our willingness to make sacrifices of national prestige, wealth and standards of living for the common good.

Part of the passage quoted in Quaker Faith and Practice, 24.09, the original having been issued by London Yearly Meeting in 1943

As in 1943, we are mindful that war causes untold suffering to everyone caught up in the fighting or indirectly affected by it through higher energy and food prices. While fighting continues, we ask for the rights of all soldiers regardless of their nationality to be respected and that they be treated according to the Geneva Convention. No person should be tortured. The right of all conscientious objectors who refuse to fight should be upheld, and they should be given the opportunity of alternative service.

We call on the Ukrainian, Russian, British and all other governments, as well as international organisations, to create the preconditions for a just peace. This will involve planning the reconstruction of the areas devastated by the war and restitution and rehabilitation of the infrastructure destroyed and the rich farmlands damaged. At the same time, the world community should redouble its efforts towards cre-ating the environment in which a lasting cessation of the fighting can take place to enable negotiations for a just and stable peace. Such a joint effort should lead to a more equitable international order which will allow humanity to work together towards solving the existential threats of the climate emergency, a future pandemic and nuclear weapons.

Central European Gathering (CEG) Gdansk, Poland 25th to 28th May 2023

It was my pleasure to be appointed to attend this Gathering in person on behalf of GM. I have now attended 3 years in succession this last one face to face with European Friends which was all the more meaningful. Over this time I have been able to attend MfW on line and so have got to know some Friends who attend both the CEG and also the Prague Meeting.

This year it was a very special coming together as after much discerning the CEG has now become a Yearly Meeting. It was a moving transition which Friends had been considering for a number of years.

"Quaker History was Written here"

The theme for this year's Gathering was "Diversity is our Strength."

Friends travelled from Sweden, Germany, Austria, Hungary, Czech Republic, Ukraine, Portugal, the UK, a guest from Australia and Poland who were our hosts this year.

Friendships made over the the past two years grew with many more opportunities to share and exchange news and information. As you can imagine we were a very diverse group but what held us together were our common Quaker values. Most Meetings are small in size but it was remarkable that although all these groups live so far apart they keep in touch on a regular basis and so have forged strong bonds.

The highlight on the Saturday was to hold a MfW for Peace in front of the medieval prison in Gdansk old town where Quakers, in the 17thC, had been incarcerated. Polish Friends had organised the renting of chairs and included spare seats. This enabled members of the public to join us and became an uplifting experience for everyone.

I hope I can encourage Friends to consider attending next year's Central European Yearly Meeting which will be held in May 2024 at Budepest

Busa Cochrane Muir St Andrews Meeting

Meeting for Sufferings held at Friends House and online July 1st 2023.

Friends House was far busier than my last visit in March as Sufferings was sharing the day with an additional session of Yearly Meeting with around 170 present and over 300 Friends on line. This resulted in a greatly reduced time for the Sufferings agenda. (3pm until 4.30pm instead of the usual full day).

Following the usual Business matters, the main topics discussed were the Loyal Address and Ecocide. There was a full discussion on the decision by BYM to to respond to an invitation to address Charles Mountbatten Windsor, called King. Young Friends General Meeting had objected and declined to participate in this event and a representative spoke passionately about their reasons for doing so. YFGM had stated that it had "...objections including that participating legitimises an institution at odds with Quaker values." The accepted Sufferings minute ended with " we hope to return to this matter of the faithful relation between church and state at a future date."

The other substantial matter discussed was the campaign to make Ecocide an international crime. Six area Meeting have urged BYM to join "Stop Ecocide International". A member of Quaker Peace and Social Witness Central

Committee outlined the work being done on this matter. Further discussion is proposed for the residential Meeting for Sufferings in October.

Unfortunately the reduced time prevented agenda items regarding Contemporary slavery and support and welcome for emigre communities from Sudan.

Full Minutes can be found on BYM website.

Further reports can be found in The Friend-7th and 14th July. Full Minutes can be found on BYM website.

Robert Thompson, ESAM Meeting for Sufferings representative.

Changing or structures for the future benefit of Quakers in Scotland - 2

This report seeks to assist Area Meetings (AM) and General Meeting (GM) in providing a clear way forward on the following recommendations made to GM in June 2023 (23/06/11):

- We form a single body, 'Quakers in Scotland' through which we support all our Local Meetings, where our membership is held and which enables us to speak, as Quakers, on Scotland wide issues.
- We form a single charity (a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO), to be responsible for the stewardship of all our resources across Scotland.
- We develop further the use of paid professional support to undertake routine tasks and provide advice, easing the load for the Friends we ask to give the greatest practical ministry.

GM was "not in unity over the recommendations at this point", but felt it "could unite about moving to a single charity for Quakers in Scotland as a first step." It asked the Options for Scotland 2 group to continue working until September, providing a basis for an Options for Scotland 3 group to continue the work that will be appointed in September.

Since June the Options for Scotland 2 group has:

- taken stock of Friends' queries, concerns, and also of their encouragement to proceed
- listened to ways in which Friends gather and witness outwith AM arrangements

- identified steps that could be taken to support current structures where they are in difficulty
- imagined the specific steps along the path we would need to take to become a new single body, Quakers in Scotland, that would embrace the functions of Area Meetings and General Meeting
- obtained legal advice confirming that a SCIO is the appropriate charity model in our circumstances
- prepared early drafts of documents that would be needed for the proposed new arrangements

The Options for Scotland 2 group remains united on our June report. In hearing responses to the recommendations, we have heard from those:

- confident that the recommendations were grounded in detailed work and clear discernment
- concerned to ensure that new arrangements provide sufficient support to worshipping Friends
- who are very anxious that their cries for help will be overlooked once again.

Most of the answers to the points raised by Friends in May and June will come from the detailed work required from Options for Scotland 3. This is important to reassure Friends that they will enjoy and be energised being part of a single community of Quakers in Scotland, and to undertake the administrative and legal steps required to make the transition to new arrangements. This transition will need to be flexible to accommodate the pace of change at which the AMs and GM feel ready to move. We imagine that the Options for Scotland 3 group will undertake its work by involving Friends across Scotland so that what emerges feels realistic, hopeful and worthwhile.

What is asked of AMs and GM at this point is that, having "wrestled with the words faith, trust, hope, realism and practicalities" (GM Minute 23/06/11):

- · accepts the recommendations above as a positive basis for further work to be undertaken
- · the Options for Scotland 3 group is appointed to develop the detailed proposals
- · AMs and GM will make a final decision once the detailed implications of the proposals are known.

Michael Hutchinson, GM Clerk

Meetings for Worship

Please note that alternative arrangements are in operation at present.

Dundee: The Meeting House, 7 Whitehall Crescent, Dundee DD1 4AR Sundays 11.00 am

Meet by Zoom at 11.00am until 12.00 noon. With MfW from 11.15-11.45am, with social time before and notices/news afterwards.

Thursdays 12.30 – 1.00 pm

St Andrews Meeting House, 2 Howard Place, St Andrews KY16 9HL
Sundays 10.30 am
Children's Meeting - each Sunday during school terms
Enquiries: Genevieve Orr (01333 360396)
Midweek Meeting, Thursdays 1.15 – 1.45pm

Perth: The Subud Centre, 7 St Leonard's Bank, Perth PH2 8EB
Second and last Sundays of each month 10.30 am
meet by Zoom at 11.00am until 12.00 noon. With MfW from 11.15-11.45am, with
social time before and notices/news afterwards.
Children's contact: Anneke Kraakman (07746 117 762)

General Meeting for Scotland

11th March 2023 - South East

ı

11th November 2023 East Scotland (Perth)

East of Scotland Area Meeting

11th February 2023 - Perth

13th May 2023 – changed, now Dundee

12th August 2023 – Perth

25th November 2023 – changed, now St Andrews