

West Scotland Quaker News

August 2013

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The opinions expressed in this Newsletter are those of individuals. They do not necessarily represent the views of the Religious Society

From the Editor: My apologies for various typographical errors - more than usual, I think! - but my freeserve Scribus desktop publishing software is playing up and causing me great frustration & wasted effort. Hopefully this will be sorted out by the next Newsletter; but if there is anybody amongst the readership who knows of a better/more reliable system, then please let me know!

Forthcoming General Meetings Scotland

General Meeting on 7 September will be held at St Matthews Church, Tay Street, Perth, and our speaker in the afternoon will be Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting.

Tay Street runs alongside the Tay. St Matthew's is the church with a spire situated between the two road bridges. It has very few parking spaces. Please book one of these in advance if needed by contacting Philip and Felicity Bryers (01738 560250). For most people the nearest likely parking is at the South Inch, a 5-10 minute walk, along Tay Street. If arriving by train, turn right out of the main station entrance, go under the railway bridge and walk down Marshall Place, with the South Inch on your right, to the roundabout at Tay Street. Turn left and continue past the Queens Bridge to the church, a 10-15 minute walk.

Residential General Meeting in November will be held in Aberdeen and will focus on social and economic issues. Our speakers will be Val Brown of Christian Aid, who will talk about their Tax Justice Campaign, and Suzanne Ismael of QPSW's Economic Justice Group. More information and booking forms will be available at the end of September.

The deadline for the next issue of West of Scotland Quaker News is 9th September.

Copy should be sent to the editor Bryan Bowes preferably in word or plain text email to: botany64@waitrose.com or by post on paper or disc to:

3 West Chapelton Lane, Bearsden, Glasgow G61 2DF.

Clerk's Letter

All Meetings have been asked by Meeting for Sufferings to consider whether the time is ripe for revising our Red Book - our book of Discipline - more familiarly called Quaker faith & practice. The Recording Clerk has prepared a briefing paper for us which follows this letter. Area Meeting has this on the agenda for 24 August and then it is proposed that local Meetings respond through Area Meeting on 12 October .

The introduction to Quaker faith & practice includes the following:
We are seekers but we are also the holders of a precious heritage of discoveries. We, like every generation, must find the Light and Life again for ourselves. Only what we have valued and truly made our own, not by assertion but by lives of faithful commitment, can we hand on to the future. Even then, we must humbly acknowledge that our vision of the truth will, again and again, be amended.

In the Religious Society of Friends we commit ourselves not to words but to a way. We base that on our collective experience of how we live together as a religious Society. Every generation or so we sift that experience and reassemble it in writing in a book that shows where we now are and what we can affirm. It is about what works and what we have learned.

I think that there is a real need for us to work through how and why we do things. At present the answers to this (formally called 'church government') is spread through certain chapters of the red book but misses out the underlying assumptions that distinguishes our way from secular experience. Increasingly we find Friends and attenders do not understand that there are deep meanings about how we do our business, worship and live our lives that relates to the fundamental discoveries Friends made when the Society was set up. Much of those discoveries are still valid – our respect for that of God in everyone and the universe, our need to listen to each other and God (however we understand that term). All our practice and ways of business and worship stem from such fundamentals but it is not always made clear.

Revising the Book involves us all over a number of years and it would not be an easy ride. But it could be good for us. Last time Sex made for a bumpy ride. Now it might be how we use terms like 'God', 'Christian' and 'Discipline'. Also we might have to give answers to what is laid on us all following the Canterbury Yearly Meeting commitment to live in the way which respects the planet and all living things. You may think of other hurdles. In revising the Book we don't seek to define everything, but use existing and fresh writings from Friends (not others) which show where we have got to. Have we now moved onwards since the last revision in 1994? Do we need to make that accessible?

It is not a creed or a holy book that gives the only way to do things.

Michael Hutchinson (*Glasgow Meeting*)

Is it time to begin a revision of Quaker faith & practice?

Our book of discipline was first issued – in manuscript form – in 1738. The first printed collection appeared in 1783 with many deletions and additions. Every generation has felt the need for revision; the present is the tenth edition. Pressure for revision has always come from the generality of Friends, but each revision has met with resistance from some who had lived with the old words and had found them entirely satisfying. Nevertheless, it has been the experience of Britain Yearly Meeting that necessary change has, despite occasions of great tension, been effected in love and unity. [Introduction to Quaker faith & practice, 1994]

Quaker faith & practice, the current text of our ‘book of Christian discipline’, was approved by Yearly Meeting in 1994, following a nine-year revision process. Certain church government chapters have been revised by subsequent Yearly Meetings, and a fifth edition of Quaker faith & practice is expected to be published later in 2013, taking account of all recent amendments. The last major revision (over the nine years to 1994) focussed primarily on the ‘anthology’ sections of the book (including the Advices & Queries), and on integrating the elements of the book into a united whole; a full revision of the church government sections was last undertaken in 1967. The purpose of the book of discipline is to reflect the current faith and practice of Friends, to enable us to be clear with each other about our shared orthopraxy, and to have a shared understanding of the basis of our church government. Only Yearly Meeting itself can call for a revision of the book of discipline, acting normally on advice from Meeting for Sufferings that Friends widely feel that a revision is needed. Meeting for Sufferings would then be asked to carry out the revision, by appointing a revision committee or committees to oversee the process.

Is it time for a revision? The revision of the book of discipline is likely to be a major undertaking, and we should embark on it only if we feel that our corporate faith & practice have moved sufficiently since 1994 to require new expression. We should recognise that the revision process might have implications for other work, and could place considerable demands on Friends serving on committees, on our library, and on certain staff.

Yearly Meeting is part-way through a planned three-year process of examining What it means to be a Quaker today, which is expected to culminate at the Yearly Meeting Gathering in Bath in August 2014. This may be a timely period for us to consider whether our current book of discipline reflects the outcomes of that discernment. To revise the book of discipline requires us to be clear what it is we can say. The book of discipline is an important way for Friends to hold a shared understanding of our faith & practice. Is our current faith & practice sufficiently well-reflected in the text of Quaker faith & practice, or are there significant changes, omissions or other reasons for the text to need revision?

Whom is Meeting for Sufferings consulting? Meeting for Sufferings has asked the Recording Clerk to consult widely. It is important to ensure that different generations of today’s Friends have had the opportunity to contribute. Area meetings, General Meeting for Scotland, Meeting of Friends in Wales and Young Friends General Meeting are all being formally consulted, and soundings will be taken in a number of other ways, including online.

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What assumptions might we be making? In embarking on the first revision of the 21st century, we may need to question our assumptions about what a 21st century 'book of discipline' looks like. Will it be a book, a website, an app? How can we make it an accessible and useful text for Friends' purposes? What use do we make of it in our corporate lives? Whilst decisions about formats and accessibility would need to be considered by any future revision committee before any decision were made, it would be helpful to hear if Friends have any particular vision for what form the text might take.

Next steps

Meetings are invited to consider the attached queries, and to respond no later than 30 November 2013 to the Recording Clerk at Friends House, using the email address qfp@quaker.org.uk. Responses can also be logged online at www.quaker.org.uk/qfpconsult.

Meeting for Sufferings will be considering a digest of the responses received at a meeting early in 2014, and will then consider the way forward for recommendation to Yearly Meeting.

Reviewing the book of discipline

Queries for area meetings and other bodies.

Meeting for Sufferings is consulting on whether it is time to revise the current book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting. This includes the constitution, historical, reflective and inspirational passages and the Advices & queries, which together make up Quaker faith & practice.

1. Do Friends in your AM / group consider that Quaker faith & practice adequately reflects the current faith and practice among British Friends?
2. If not, what particular recent developments in our faith and practice do you believe need to be more fully reflected? Are there any issues which no longer need be covered?
3. What use do Friends in your AM / group make of the current Quaker faith & practice? How well does it meet these needs? Is it primarily for the use of Friends, or does it have a value in enabling others to understand us?
4. Are there ways in which our current church government as set out in Quaker faith & practice is at variance with what is actually happening, and if so, how?
5. What should a 21st century book of discipline be like? Are there other formats your AM / group would find helpful?
6. In light of your responses to queries 1-5, do you consider it time to begin the lengthy process of revision of our book of discipline?
7. Are there issues which might require us to engage in some exploration or threshing as a yearly meeting, before embarking on a revision process?

Paul Parker (*Recording Clerk*, Britain Yearly Meeting)

Meeting for Business by Telephone on 27th June, 2013

Twenty-four Friends and attenders joined the conference, each being introduced as they dialled in. It is a strange feeling not being able to see each other and makes me realise how much we all rely on body language for additional information.

After a period of worship the death of David Sainty was recorded and we gave thanks for his life. Then the minute from Ayrshire and Arran Meeting was brought forward. We became a joint Meeting when there were only two Quakers on Arran but now there are a few more, Arran Meeting had asked to become a Local Meeting in its own right.

This was sparked by the Arran group wishing to respond quickly to a concern from Cumbria Meeting and yet not wanting to act without our other half! As those on Arran could not get to Ayr in time for Meeting, whilst Ayr Quakers have to make a quite expensive day-trip to Arran, it has not been easy to liase. So it was decided that, now that Arran had sufficient members to cover the main offices, it was time to thank Ayr for its support and become independent. Ayr Meeting happily agreed and Area Meeting agreed and wished both Meetings well.

The Clerk's report followed (it can be seen in the minutes) and then Peter Christy added to his Report on Meeting for Sufferings. The Meeting had urged Friends to take note of the Government's Welfare Reforms and add their voices to demands for just reforms.

There was an application for Membership from Eleanor Koeppliner, a young attender at Glasgow, and visitors to him were appointed.

We heard news of General Meeting for Scotland, Quaker Life Representative Council (held at Woodbrooke in April) and the Elders and Overseers conference, also held at Woodbrooke in May. The Reports all left the impression of a lively, forward-looking Society.

When discussing venues for Area Meeting it was hoped more Meetings would offer to host them.

We hope to meet in person at Tarbert on 24th August.

Judith Baines (*Arran Meeting*)

A way of using Lectio Divina

At the recent Outreach Conference I went to a workshop on using Lectio Divina with Advices and Queries. Drawing on the experience of her small twice-a-month meeting, our speaker told us of their after meeting process:

First they shared any after words.

Next, without looking, someone drew from the full set, one of the A&Q cards and then read it, slowly.

They paused, and read it again, including each time the number.

(Members of the Meeting take this Advice and Query home with them to dwell on until the next Meeting - each may choose only a short phrase from it for focus.)

After this there were notices, and lastly tea and coffee.

Following the Afterwords at the next meeting, there is time to share any inspiration from the last A&Q before the one for this time is chosen and read.

We were told of how this had worked in their Meeting with individuals being “given” particularly appropriate A&Q for their own situation; and the inspiration of “living with” a particular A&Q over a period. For a large meeting, I can see that this method might not be possible to use. For smaller meetings this is a way to incorporate using A&Q in worship on a regular basis.

Barbara Potter (*Glasgow Meeting*)

From Wikipedia: Traditionally Lectio Divina has 4 separate steps: read, meditate, pray and contemplate. First a passage of Scripture is read, then its meaning is reflected upon. This is followed by prayer and contemplation on the Word of God.



News of "westerly" Friends

Once again this spring Friends in the remoter bits of West Scotland have been working hard to gather together for worship, fellowship and generally having a good time. In March another very successful gathering was held at Inveraray Youth Hostel, with participants from four islands and two Area Meetings (unfortunately ill-health meant that Mull Friends didn't make it), with fun and games, deep discussion and worship and our rapidly-becoming-traditional walk up to Dun na Cuaiche and Saturday evening meal at the George Hotel. We ate royally through the whole weekend, which has led to rather different plans for next year watch this space!

In April, Argyll & Islay and Arran Friends once again met half-way at Skipness Village Hall (1st photo). This time we excelled ourselves – some 25 Friends including 4 children gathered together for a picnic lunch followed by Meeting for Worship. Skipness is a very easy place to amuse 4 small children who find 10 minutes of silent worship quite enough – a well-equipped school playground next door and a stunning beach the other side of the quietest road in Kintyre!

And in May another meeting of AMs (WS and NS) took place at the home of Bob and Dot Hay in Lismore (2nd photo). Lynda Mitchell of Lochaber and Lorn LM has contributed the following account

“The day dawned bright but with an invigorating breeze, and at 10am a small bunch of intrepid friends gathered on the rather windswept Port Appin Pier to step aboard the small foot passenger ferry across to the island of Lismore.

A short, rocky time later we were greeted on the island by Bob Hay with his sturdy Landrover, into which climbed those preferring the drier and faster route to Bob and Dot's house. The rest of us set off overland – across the hill, enjoying the abundance of spring wildlife. A multitude of birdsong greeted our ears and bright weather prevailed as we made our way amongst the wildflowers.

Steaming hot drinks welcomed us on arrival in Bob and Dot's homely kitchen, looking out over a panorama of green and fertile farmland, dotted with sheep and lambs.

The meeting for worship was held in this most peaceful of surroundings: 11 of us (including 4 from Argyll and Islay meeting) gathered around the spacious kitchen table to the sound of the birds singing and the calling of sheep and lambs outside. Appropriately, there was a decidedly nature-focussed theme to the ministry that morning.

Afterwards, we all enjoyed a most impressive feast of shared food, and then, replete, braved the roller coaster landrover ride back to the ferry (the rain having come on).

Many thanks, Bob and Dot, for hosting a most enjoyable and memorable day.”

Bronwen Currie (*Argyll & Islay Meeting*) & **Linda Mitchell** (*Lochaber & Lorn Meeting*)



Report on General Meeting for Scotland 16 June 2013

General Meeting in Edinburgh opened with half an hour's silent worship. Silence broken only by the not at all unwelcome sound of the Pride march outside, and by a reading from Advices and Queries about our responsibility for caring for our world a theme for the day.

From our responsibility to look after our planet, we also considered how best to look after Scotland, and how best to look after our Tapestry Panel, and we heard some wonderful presentations on behalf of the Iona Community and the Pilgrimage for Peace and Economic Justice. With members present from all parts of Scotland, the Meeting had a feel of a family gathering, but without the awkwardness. Gisela Creed and Alastair McIver were given the responsibility to write this report, a slightly terrifying task!

New members recorded since last meeting were: Raine Herbert, John Galilee, and Alastair McIver. A genuine sense of warmth and welcoming swept the room.

Deaths recorded were: Barbara Organ, John Wray, James Wickens. We hold these departed Friends in the Light.

Robin Davis, clerk of Trustees, filled us in on the role of the trustees – overseeing employment of administrators, developing policies such as PVG, and assisting the treasurer in producing the financial report.

Assistant Treasurer Duncan Wallace presented the financial report. Numbers were duly crunched, and the report was accepted and signed by the clerk.

Elizabeth Allen presented a report on the work of the Parliamentary Liaisons Function Group. GM, on the recommendation of this group, sent a letter to Parliament about voting rights for prisoners in the forthcoming referendum. This created much-needed debate on the issue.

Another issue considered in detail is Trident, and the Function Group will be preparing a letter for consideration by GM in September. There was a lot of discussion of Trident, with some Friends saying that they remember being taken to protests as children, and we don't want another generation to grow up and say the same.

Dear to the hearts of many in the room is the forthcoming Independence referendum, upon which there is no consensus among Scottish Friends. The feeling was that we needed to prepare now for the aftercare we as a society will need after the referendum, regardless of the result, with a focus on healing and reconciliation. This also applies to wider communities. There was lots of discussion on how to prepare for this event and concern about the potential devisory elements of the referendum were expressed. How can we help local and national discussions to be more reflective rather than combative? The function group is preparing a special set of Advices

and Queries on this topic, it will be the afternoon topic for GM in March, and there will be a special Referendum issue of Scottish Friend.

A business plan which is being developed and will be discussed at the next meeting, with potential employment of a Scottish Quaker parliamentary officer. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

John Stubbings represented the Iona Community, and presented a fascinating insight into their work, including youth work in Glasgow and links with the Corrymeela Community in Northern Ireland, and their celebration of the 1450th anniversary of Columba's landing in Scotland. There was also mention of the financial problems the Community now faces because of the assumption of responsibility for the buildings by Historic Scotland.

The Pilgrimage for Peace and Economic Justice, organised by Hexham Quakers and Northumbrians for Peace, is an entirely awesome project, and we have agreed to send the pilgrims a message of support.

We also considered how best to care for our Tapestry Panel, agreeing that it should be on display at Edinburgh Friends Meeting House, and available to borrow by Meetings across Scotland. We agreed to buy an appropriate carrying case for this.

Lunch was a lovely chance to mingle with Friends from across Scotland, and people who had never met before found it really easy to blather as if we had known each other for years, over some profoundly lovely food.

And the afternoon session was a delightful presentation on the Transition Movement, by Eva Schonveld and Jane Lewis. The Transition movement is about moving towards living locally. This includes recycling, growing our own food and even making our own green energy, all within the local community. The problem identified in the way we live today was summed up very tidily: we don't see where our stuff comes from. The more direct and visible is the process of stuff – be it food, clothes or other items – coming into our possession from coming into existence, the better we are living and the better our lives are for the planet.

The two women gave an excellent outline of many ways in which this could be accomplished, before giving us the challenge of generating ideas for our own communities. To do this, we split into groups, each with a volunteer facilitator: one dealing with waste; one with Energy; one with transport; and one with food. A wonderful, energetic buzz ensued with ideas flying everywhere. If we could harness the power of our enthusiasm, we could have replaced a power station that day! This culminated in each facilitator holding up their big chunk of paper and presenting their group's main ideas. It was an inspirational and uplifting end to the day.

Alastair McIver & Gisela Creed



How can we support the Palestinians?

I would like to challenge Jan Lethbridge of Dumfries Meeting over a statement in her article reporting on the issues covered at the conference at Woodbrooke in March addressing Interfaith and interchurch work, including the boycotting of goods from the occupied territories in Israel/Palestine. Jan states that since there is no synagogue in Galloway “ we have no one to challenge on this issue and that the boycotting of these products, recommended by Meeting for Sufferings some months ago, “ is something that has barely touched us here in Galloway.”

It has, however, touched the Society of Friends as a whole. For a number of years now, Quaker Peace and Social Witness have managed the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel (EAPPI), an initiative of the World Council of Churches. On a more personal level, in 2008, after listening to Anne Rado’s presentation to WSAM after her visit to Palestine/Israel, I became convinced of the need for the Society of Friends to pray regularly for these two peoples, in the way we had held the people of South Africa in the Light some years ago. Meeting for Sufferings acknowledged this concern and recommended Area Meeting reps feed back this request to meetings across Britain. Since then the conditions and treatment of the Palestinian people under a brutal military occupation by Israel have got worse, particularly since the UN recognised the existence of the state of Palestine and its status was upgraded by UNESCO. Palestinians simply do not have a viable state, and according to Linda Ramsden, who is the founder of Experience Travel Study Tours, and my own Palestinian contacts, since the formation of Israel’s new coalition government there has been a surge in house demolitions and displacements.

One of the few ways we can support the Palestinians is to boycott goods produced from land that now is illegally occupied by Israeli settlers in defiance of UN dictates. We may feel powerless to stop the daily attacks, arrests, imprisonment without trial, even of children, but we can campaign to spread information about this apartheid situation, and support the boycott, divestment and sanctions action against Israel. Yes this action will add to the fear the Israelis have of international hostility towards them, but this is one of the few ways we can show solidarity for the oppressed, a longstanding tradition of the Society of Friends. The alternative to boycott - to allow the Palestinian people their human right to live in dignity and freedom - is in Israeli hands.

I was saddened to read, too, the questioning by Friends of the value of the EAPPI. Would these same Friends doubt the value of Friends' attempts to support the Jewish people in Nazi occupied countries during the last war? The courageous EAPPI volunteers monitor and feed back information on the day to day situation as it unfolds. I have heard the programme criticised by a member of the International Solidarity Movement who feels their stance is too neutral and Israel friendly, but the enormous benefit of their protective presence and the authenticity of their factual reports is beyond question and used by the EU and the UN.

I recently listened to a harrowing description, through an interpreter, of the experiences, including torture, in an Israeli prison of Mahmoud Sarsak, an international Palestinian footballer. He spent three years in an Israel prison, without being given a reason for this imprisonment, far less a fair trial, and was only released when he became a hunger striker and was near death. I was once asked by a student at the Quaker school in Ramallah to let people know the truth of what is happening in the West Bank and Gaza. I can do no other.

Margaret Munro (*Dunblane Meeting*)

Review of *The Burning Question: We can't burn half the world's oil, coal and gas. So how do we quit?*

This book by Mark Berners-Lee and Duncan Clark is a must read for all. Even if you have read books about climate change before or have never read one. It is written in an easy to read style and well referenced. As Quakers we have a duty of care. We also have a duty of hope.

The Burning Question tells the story of current and potential climate change in the face of the lack of action by global leaders. It's a brave and authoritative book and doesn't pull punches, so be prepared for very bad news.

But there is good news alongside the bad news. It's not too late to take action if citizens world-wide are told the truth which will enable them to mobilise in their millions to insist that climate change is the top priority. The authors say that conversations must start but also write about why they are not happening.

Present global regulation of carbon emissions doesn't even scratch the surface of the problem. Carbon capture technologies are not yet ready and will not arrive in time. Politicians who are aware - and not all of them are - are paralysed by the depth and complexity of the action required.

Meanwhile the human race is sleepwalking to the edge of a precipice and, by the lack of awareness and discussion, it looks as though we do not care.

One of the key messages of the book is that the carbon that is locked up in fossil fuel reserves is far in excess of that which can safely be burned. A high percentage of fossil fuels must remain in the ground if our planet is to remain habitable for human beings. Given that they are of enormous value by present standards of economic measurement, it's difficult to see how this is going to be achieved. But our standards of economic measurement could change so, as an intelligent species, we need to get creative.

Indeed the book ends with the following comment about the potential loss of human civilisation: "An intelligent species like ours would would not allow this to happen ... Would it?"

Mary Roslin (*Glasgow Meeting*)

Remembering Billy Johnstone in Argyll



Billy was a much loved member of Argyll Meeting. Sensitive to the needs of others, Billy would arrive at 'bring-your-own-lunch' meetings with a spare packed lunch in case someone might be without. He spoke often of "Loaves and Fishes" (a charity about which he was passionate) that provides food and clothing for the homeless in Glasgow; not only reminding us during our Meetings of their needs, but also talking

about the work to church guilds and to women's rural groups. At Argyll Meetings for Worship what particularly stand out in our memories include one held mid-week at Billy and Gwen's home in Tarbert following the tragic shootings in Dunblane: a candle was lit as we settled down, few in number, without spoken ministry, but a truly gathered Meeting. On another occasion we held our Sunday morning Meeting in Minard, overlooking Loch Fyne. There was bright sunshine, so the curtains were drawn together. As the worship ended, Billy got up and opened the curtains -for us all to see in wonderment a passing pod of dolphins. Magic! ... And the experience was oft recalled by Billy!!

Amongst the photographs that Argyll Meeting has in its Visitors Book, to chronicle special occasions, are several of celebrations of signal anniversaries that Billy and Gwen generously shared with us. We have been enriched by having the good fortune of their presence in Argyll. Even when they moved away from us, they still showed care by offering overnight hospitality if this would help when visiting anyone in Paisley or Glasgow hospitals; and also by visiting hospitalised Argyll Friends, to reduce the stress of travel from our rather remote location.

Some individual recollections include: "Thinking of Billy Johnstone and his inspiring presence, it was Billy who suggested I apply for Membership; a stalwart of our Meeting for many years." "I met Billy in Glasgow. It was the first time I had attended a Meeting outside of Argyll and it was a bit daunting to be in such a large group. It was Billy who made a point of coming over to welcome me afterwards, and to chat about his affection for the Argyll Meeting, sending his heartfelt greetings to all of us." "Billy was a friendly, open person whom it was a privilege to have known. His spirit will surely live on in the consciousness of people whose lives he has touched." "Whilst I was employed as a Social Worker in Argyll, it did not coincide with Billy's, so my contact with him was fairly minimal – but always a pleasure. I know many people who worked with Billy, some of whom were clients of his. They have all paid tribute to Billy's lovely warm manner, to his skill, his compassion and dedication." We feel all truly blessed to have had the privilege of having shared times together and of the many happy memories that stay with us.

Compiled on behalf of Argyll Meeting by Bobby and Edna Locke. (Note: An appreciation of Bobby's work in Glasgow Meeting will be published in the next WSQN.)

Glasgow Local Meeting Report for 2012

In 2012 Glasgow Local Meeting supported 3 Meetings for Worship. There are weekly meetings on Sundays and Wednesdays in Glasgow with an attendance of 50-70 on Sundays. Members and attenders come from a wide geographical area, and there are often visitors to the Meeting. A regular meeting has started to take place monthly in St Serf's in Shettleston. Two new members have joined this year and we note with sadness the death of our friend Ian Richardson.

Elders have the quality of Meetings for Worship as a standing agenda item at their meetings and have continued the practice of reading from Advices and Queries during meeting for worship once a month as well as our monthly '5 minutes discussion' after Meeting for Worship.

The Overseers meet regularly and look out for each other's problems. Problems faced by members of the Meeting that we need to know about are discussed in confidence and supported in contemplative ways. Overseers review the visitors' book and allocate a particular Overseer to look out for individual new comers. For the social life of the Meeting we have had a summer BBQ which was preceded by Meeting for Worship and enjoyed by about 70 people. A Meeting House party was held in early March which was attended by about 40 people and took the form of contributions of music, poetry, songs and storytelling from young friends, children and adults.

Together Elders and Overseers organised an 'Exploration Day' in conjunction with Quaker Life which allowed us to focus on the strengths of our Meeting and how we might use them to develop and deepen our Meeting. A joint meeting was held for Elders and Overseers from West Scotland Area Meeting which aimed to strengthen the support, particularly to smaller meetings. In order to help Elders and Overseers support Friends in the event of a death and funeral a paper is being developed to outline the procedures involved and also to make Friends aware of the need to plan ahead in the form of making a will and making their wishes about their funeral known. Meetings for clearance have been held with a particular member who found the experience very helpful and rewarding to all concerned

In March Niamh Sheridan who was our children's worker left to travel. A small gathering was held to thank her for her hard work and commitment to the children over the course of the year. In April we welcomed Jennifer Hodson and Robin Cannon as the new children's workers who have had a successful few months. Jen was supported to attend the Quaker Youth Conference at Woodbrooke The Teenagers' Discussion Group takes place every 3rd Sunday and is open to those aged 11-18 to give time to discuss things that they would like to change in the meeting, topics of interest with invited speakers or just the chance to catch up over pizza.

The Meeting House Social Fund paid for the children and young people to go to a Pantomime at the Royal Conservatoire of Scotland in Glasgow. It was a big success for all those who attended, including the adults. (Enjoyment and commitment was demonstrated by the children and young people in learning lines, extra rehearsal days and smiles on the day for their Christmas play which raised £175 for Glasgow Destitution Network.

To comply with recent safeguarding legislation and best practice in line with GM's Safeguarding Policy and procedures Children's committee members without enhanced disclosure have applied for PVG Registration.

The Climate Change Group (otherwise known as the Green Ginger Group) has a core membership of Friends appointed by Local Meeting but is also a more informal group of Friends who are interested in maintaining and supporting the witness of Friends on environmental issues. The group has held a discussion about the spiritual aspects of climate change and shown a DVD about 'The Economics of Happiness'

The Ecumenical and Interfaith group was set up during the year and is developing its role and remit

There is a working Finance Committee which plans and manages the year's budget including matters such moving our banking to more ethical institutions and how to encourage donations to the Sunday collection box. It has been a good year thanks to the great generosity of Friends. Total Income from one-off donations, regular contributions by Standing Order and collections for 2012 was £25,600 compared with £24,600 in 2011. Income was boosted by the very successful special roof appeal which raised £6,257. This meant that the Meeting was able to pay for the extensive repairs without outside help or dipping into reserves. Income from the hire of rooms held up well at almost £25,000 which was similar to last year. Employment costs have risen a bit due to a decision to increase salaries during the year to the "living wage" scales. Costs for utilities and maintenance of the Meeting House have been kept at a steady level thanks to careful management. We note that the Meeting subsidises the hiring business by almost £2000 a year. We aim to hold enough reserves for one year's expenditure on the advice of Britain Yearly Meeting. These funds are in the Ecology Building Society and amount to £39,000, half of which is allocated to property emergencies. The Iraq fund has been closed this year when the remaining £1,422 was donated to Iraqi refugee children caught up in the troubles of Syria.

The Hospitality Committee provides a lunch to a growing number of about 50 people at the monthly Bring and Share lunch. A simple soup and bread lunch is also offered to those attending our Local Meetings for Business. Morning coffee, soup and bread lunch and afternoon tea, are provided for the Area and General Meetings that take place in Glasgow. The Committee is also supported by a group of volunteer soup makers. In addition the Committee has organised catering for Quaker Quest and for other occasional events taking place in the Meeting House. All members of the Committee participate in basic Food Hygiene training, ensuring that certificates are kept up to date. The work of the Hospitality Committee is carried out in close liaison with and strong support from the Warden. Contributing to the work of the Hospitality Committee helps to build our awareness of the spirit of God at work in the ordinary activities of daily life as we prepare and serve food together. Shared meals provide an opportunity to nurture the members of our Quaker community and to get to know each other better.

The nominations committee has continued to fill gaps in committees, responding to the needs of LM.

2012 was the third year that Outreach committee ran the Quaker Quest, which attracted approximately half a dozen different members of the target audience. This was also seen as a significant form of 'in-reach' too, with 30 members from Glasgow Meeting involved at various levels in the delivery of Quaker Quest. The committee continues to explore ways of supporting and growing the Meeting at St Serf's. Two committee members attended Reaching In- Reaching Out conference and are looking at ways in which our Meeting can develop spiritual hospitality and ways of improving our welcoming of newcomers. Support is given to the Quaker chaplains and representatives at higher education establishments in the city, notably Nicola Maharg with her chaplaincy work at Glasgow University and in her role with the Committee on Equalities and Diversity in Religion at Glasgow University and on the UK wide Chaplains' Committee. The Meeting has been represented at a small number of events in the city and members have given talks to local historical

societies and schools.

The Property committee has repaired the roof leaks and removed the chimney which was causing many of the problems and re-harled the front wall alongside undertaking the statutory maintenance checks and minor repairs throughout the building. The committee has also raised awareness of the proposed new Scottish Power Building in St Vincent Street.

The Wardenship and Lettings Committee provides oversight of operation of the Meeting House including the lettings to third parties and line management support to the Warden and through the Warden to the Assistant Wardens and Cleaning Staff.

The number of bookings has generally kept up to previous levels despite the financial difficulties of some user groups. We continue to be flexible in our charges to support groups who would otherwise find difficulty in obtaining accommodation. The risk assessment procedure has been updated and an annual Management Review of the Warden's work is carried out

This report is drawn from the committee reports to Local Meeting and can only capture some of the Quaker activity in Glasgow. Glasgow Friends are active in the local community and the wider world, both in specifically Quaker work and in service and fundraising in many spheres at home and further afield.

Ann Kerr (Clerk Glasgow Meeting)

24th August Area Meeting in Tarbet

Directions to the Templar Arts & Leisure Centre, Harbour Road, Tarbert, Loch Fyne: from Glasgow Buchanan Bus Station there are buses to Campbeltown via Tarbert (Service Number 926) at 0635, arriving at 0930; and at 0915, arriving 1327. By car, take the A82 along Loch Lomond as far as Tarbet, then head West on the A83 all the way to Tarbert, via Arrochar, Rest-and-Be-Thankful, Inveraray, Lochgilphead, then turns South to Tarbert harbour. Turn left (towards Portavadie Ferry) and the Templar Hall can be seen on the right-hand side. Area Meeting 11am for 1130am start.

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