

RESTORE, Role Holder Networks and Christian Aid.

Your Local Development Worker's Wrap up of her work in the first Quarter of 2022



*Book titled Zoe Goes To Meeting
Found at Aberdeen Meeting House*

Hello, my name is Zoe Prosser. I am almost at a year's anniversary of starting my work as Local Development Worker for Quakers in Scotland.

In that year I have moved house twice, settled my children in their new school and got to know some amazing Friends.

It is hard to reach everyone in my work, so I am starting a quarterly report, to give you a taster of some of what I have been doing. I will also sneak in a few of my future plans, so you have some idea of what to look out for next.

I also have a request from the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group at the end of this newsletter – so please keep an eye out for that!

Christian Aid

At the beginning of this year Christian Aid in Scotland asked us to support them in creating a podcast for Lent. Following our amazing work at COP26 they asked us to create something that would include the Quaker call for Climate Justice. I worked with Olivia Hanks from Quaker Peace and Social Witness at Britain Yearly Meeting, and some amazing Friends to create material that Christian Aid cut down to fit into their schedule. They were so impressed with the discussion between Janey Andrews (West Scotland AM) and Phil Chandler (Lancashire Central & North Area Meeting) that they created an additional podcast to share the discussion further. The podcast is available here (#6 Silence and #6 - BONUS - Quakers extended discussion) <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/pray/walking-humbly>

RESTORE

RESTORE is a series of workshops that Local Development Workers have put together to support meetings to rebuild and look towards an exciting future. I have had the pleasure of running RESTORE workshops with Area Meetings, Local Meetings and residentials, and feedback has been amazing.

“I have never felt so included in the whole meeting as I did today”

“Very clear, accessible and thought provoking”

This is something that I can and have adapted to the needs of the meeting inviting me. To find out more, please go to <https://quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings/restore>

Role Holder Networks

I accompanied the Options for Quakers in Scotland Group in their work (the group appointed by General Meeting for Scotland to consider potential changes in structure of the AM and GM to strengthen our Quaker community in Scotland and ensure that we are well governed). One of the suggestions that the group laid before GM was to create and maintain Role Holder Networks across Scotland, to allow Friends to share their experience, new ways of working and challenges. This already happens with the clerks of the GM and AMs in Scotland and Trustees and Treasurers.

I have been working on helping to start some of those networks.

So far I have set up a network for Elders, Overseers and The Pastoral Care Teams across Scotland and I am working on setting up a network for Nominations committee members.

I am planning a network for clerks of Local Meetings.

Please let me know if you have a suggestion for another network that I should consider setting up.

Challenges and support



Friends looking out over a stunning view
At Western Coastal Friends Gather

I have been approached by area and local meetings to support them with challenges, either within the meeting or external. This has been an incredibly rewarding part of my role and a huge learning process for me, as I learn more about the histories within your communities.

Perhaps it would be useful to know that I have been asked a lot about blended meetings. There are meetings (like some of the Friends in the Western Coastal cluster, and North Scotland AM) that have found online meetings empowering, enriching and joyful. For some of these Friends, it is the first time that they have been able to access consistent weekly worship in a very long time.

For others there is worry about fragmentation into two separate parts, online and in person meetings. I have run sessions to explore this and to try and overcome some of the challenges inherent in blended meetings. There is still thinking to be done, but our online worship (and community building) is clearly invaluable to some Friends who our part of our worshipping communities.



Picture of Zoe Prosser

Meet your Local Development Worker

I have had to opportunity to meet some amazing Friends over the last few months. To be more available and meet more of you I am setting up drop in sessions (via Zoom) where you can pop in, have a chat or ask me a question. There are drop in sessions in the morning, afternoon and evening. Please go to the end of the document for drop in times and zoom details.

If you are interested in finding out more about me I have a webpage and interview video on our Quakers in Scotland website. These reports will also be available online. To visit the page, please go to <https://quakerscotland.org/our-work/support-for-meetings>

Request from the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group

Please share your stories of your meeting's work with supporting asylum seekers and refugees. Friends across Scotland are involved in this work, we hope that by exchanging ideas and encouragement we will strengthen our sense of unity and shared purpose. We are planning a new page on the Quakers in Scotland website as a first step. If your meeting is active in this area, and you would like to share brief information for the new page, please contact Carolyn Burch (NSAM, Parliamentary Engagement Working Group) who will collate and upload it with the help of our website editor. Carolyn's email : ecarolynburch@gmail.com.

Zoom Meeting Details:

	Dates	Zoom details
Scotland Drop Ins - Morning	Apr 21, 2022 10:30 Jul 26, 2022 10:30 Oct 25, 2022 10:30 Jan 26, 2023 10:30	Join Zoom Meeting https://quaker.zoom.us/j/84957113031 Meeting ID: 849 5711 3031
Scotland Drop Ins - Afternoon	May 18, 2022 14:30 Aug 17, 2022 14:30 Nov 16, 2022 14:30 Feb 15, 2023 14:30	Join Zoom Meeting https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82907091250 Meeting ID: 829 0709 1250
Scotland Drop Ins - Evening	Jun 14, 2022 18:30 Sep 14, 2022 18:30 Dec 13, 2022 18:30 Mar 14, 2023 18:30	Join Zoom Meeting https://quaker.zoom.us/j/82150494485 Meeting ID: 821 5049 4485