

# **CAM - MfS - report - 07 October 2017 - Manchester MeetingHouse**

**MfS/17/10/26 Thanks to Manchester and Warrington AM for all they have done to make us feel welcome**

## **1) MfS/17/10/20 Yearly Meeting Gathering 2017**

MfS reflected on Gathering held at the University of Warwick, the theme of which was Living out our faith in the world: working with others to make a difference.

Friends spoke of the impact that Yearly Meeting Gathering has had. It was noted that the gathering was lively, nurturing and well-organised, including a role for young adults.

The wider use of technology meant that those not physically present felt included.

We are thankful to all those involved in making this event a success.

[nb ALL PROCEEDINGS COULD BE FOLLOWED ON THE WEB]

## **2) MfS/17/10/22 Diversity and inclusion**

Minute 38 of YM2017 asking Sufferings to consider diversity in our committee and organisational structures, and particularly to look at how Quakers can remove barriers and actively seek wider participation in the full life of our meetings.

'We will not be able to increase diversity in committees and organisational structure without addressing wider issues.

We want to learn from different experiences of our meetings throughout Britain, of other Yearly Meetings worldwide and of other churches and faith groups.

We need to be open to the Light to guide us.

Change is managed best when done in a loving way and in an organic way.

We have some questions for LMs and AMs:

- 1. In what ways is your meeting (or committee or group) already diverse?**
- 2. In what ways could it be more diverse?**
- 3. What would help it become more diverse? What are the opportunities and barriers?**

We ask representatives to consider these questions further with their Area Meetings or committees and respond to the Meeting for Sufferings Arrangements Group via the Deputy Recording Clerk.'

MfS heard some points of the benefits of different ways of working in committees and groups, by using tele-conferencing, Skype and other tools. MfS return to this issue in 2018.

## **3) Central Service**

There are now postcards available that you may send to those who may consider service on central bodies and a link to these may also be found on website - <https://forms.quaker.org.uk/qsif/>

## **4) MfS/17/10/17 Sanctuary Everywhere Manifesto**

Helen Drewery spoke of the Sanctuary project and the proposed '**Sanctuary Everywhere**' Manifesto (see minute QPSWCC 17/29).

The work grew out of the concerns of Friends, legacy funding enabled a pilot project – a listening exercise – which has been extended for a further two years.

Local meetings are being supported by QPSW to join local initiatives that create a culture of welcome, and to foster their involvement in campaigning and advocacy.

The Manifesto's six points have grown from many recent BYM statements .

HOWEVER Sufferings felt - It is important to make more explicit the Quaker basis behind the manifesto, and refer it back to QPSW.

'We appreciate the work that has gone into developing the manifesto and support the principles behind it whilst recognising the difficulties that may be encountered in practice.'

## **5) MfS/17/10/11 Ackworth School General Meeting**

Minutes 8a and 8b of Ackworth General Meeting record that BYM is not regarded as the direct owner of Ackworth School and that the governance of the school rests with Ackworth General Meeting. These minutes confirm and clarify decisions taken by MfS in 1998, 2001 and 2007. This will mean that this is the last time Meeting for Sufferings is asked to note such changes.

6) **Sufferings meets on 2 December**, joined for part of the day by members of the Young People's Participation programme. - HAVE WE ANY YOUNG PERSON GOING THIS YEAR?

## **7> MfS/17/10/14 Quaker Recognised Bodies**-11 groups registered for 5years, reviewed by Sept.2022:

### **External**

Friends House Moscow  
Quaker Voluntary Action  
The Quaker Tapestry  
Friends Southern Summer Events (FSSE) The Penn Club  
The Retreat York Benevolent Fund Friends of Hlekweni

### **Free-standing**

Quaker Fellowship for After-Life Studies  
Quaker South Asia Interest Group (QSAIG) Friends Community Development Trust (Uganda)

### **Linked**

Quaker Concern for the Abolition of Torture (Q-CAT)  
We agree to register the following group for two years, to be reviewed by September 2019:

### **Emergent**

Quaker Decriminalisation Network  
NOT registered: Experiment with Life

## **8> MfS/17/10/05 Court and Prison Register**

-Sam Walton of South London AM..to appear in court on 24th October, charged with criminal damage, in relation to an action to disarm warplanes in February.

-Sam Donaldson, an attender at Hull meeting (Pickering and Hull AM), charged with breach of the peace at Faslane naval base on 13 July 2017..to appear in court on 12 October.

-Nine Friends were arrested in September outside the Arms Fair organised by Defence and Security Equipment International (DSEI) at the ExCeL centre in Docklands, London. Six of the nine were arrested during a Meeting for Worship. Three Friends pleaded guilty to obstruction of the highway and were given six months conditional bail and £95 costs: Hank Eynattan, Kingston and Wandsworth AM; Paul Milling, Kingston and Wandsworth AM; and Chris Gwyntopher, North East Thames AM.

The following Friends were charged with obstruction of the highway: David Amos, Kingston and Wandsworth AM; Susan Clarkson, Brighouse West Yorkshire AM; Richard Levitt, of Leeds AM; Simon Watson of South East London AM; and Jo Frew, an attender at Tottenham meeting (North London AM). David Henshaw of North West London Area Meeting was arrested for aggravated trespass.

We add the names of all these Friends to our court and prison register, and we hold them in the Light.

## **ALSO**

### **9> MfS/17/10/08 Quaker World Relations Committee: The Future of Europe**

Minute 2017/05/07 of Quaker World Relations Committee (QWRC) with a copy of its response to the Conference of European Churches (CEC) draft Open Letter on the future of Europe.

**10> MfS/17/10/09 500th Anniversary of Lutheran Reform** minute 17/48 of Quaker Committee for Christian & Interfaith Relations + a paper marking the 500th Anniversary of the Lutheran Reformation - covering aspects of Quakerism and reformation - this may be useful for Quakers in their study.

**11> MfS/17/10/24 Use of the phrase 'Quakers in Britain'** a paper on the use of the phrase 'Quakers in Britain' which responds to a matter raised by Cambridgeshire AM (minute MfS/16/04/13 refers).We thank Trustees for this paper and confirm that it is appropriate to use the term 'Quakers in Britain' for public statements, as agreed by MfS in 2014 (MfS/2014/02/05 Speaking Out).

### **12> MfS/17/10/25 BYM Communications and Speaking Out**

**Paul Parker**, reminded us of the *Speaking Out* policy which was agreed by MfS in 2014 (Qf&p 3.27 refers). He spoke of the challenges involved in Speaking Out. **Jane Dawson**, Head of External Communications, spoke about BYM's communication work. The BYM strategic communications objectives are grounded in *Our Faith in the Future* - she gave details coverage of press statements, and social media posts. Over 13 million people reached by BYM media in April-June 2017.

LMs may be supported in speaking out by the team. "Every Quaker is a communicator."

'Knowing that Quakers are not widely understood by the general public, we have been challenged to do what we can. We should ask ourselves who is the communication aimed at and do we know whether it reaches the right people? Finally How do representatives wish to hear about public statements made by the Communications department? At present, these are sent to Friends in a variety of different ways according to circumstances.' AMs/LMs invited to respond to the Advocacy and Public Relations Team.