

HARDSHAW AND MANN AREA MEETING MINUTES

Held at via Zoom on Sunday 11th April 2021 at 12 noon

Present - 15 Friends. At the table are Julia Cadman and Liese van Alwon, AM Co-Clerks.

19/2021 Quaker Faith and Practice 22.93 was read during our opening worship.

20/2021 Representation

The following Friends have been appointed by their Local Meetings to represent them today:

Isle of Man – None appointed

Liverpool – Linda Gibbs and Aidan Childes

St Helens – Mike Bartram

Southport – Gerard Hughes

Wigan – Eric Silk

21/2021 Minutes of the last meeting on 14th February 2021

The minutes were agreed on that date and have been circulated.

22/2021 Matters arising

None

23/2021 Membership

We sadly record the death of our great Friend Jonathan Griffith who died peacefully on 7th April 2021 at the age of 83 after a short illness. Arrangements for Jonathan's funeral will be circulated in due course.

24/2021 Update from Local Meetings

Southport

Southport Meeting has been contacted by Marlene Schepers who is in contact with a prisoner at HMP Wymott. Meeting for Worship at the prison has been requested. Gerard Hughes is in contact with the lead chaplain at HMP Wynott and will discuss with him the possibility of holding Meeting for Worship at the prison. Gerard will inform friends of any progress in due course.

Southport Meeting continues to meet by Zoom each Sunday for 30 minutes and hopes to reopen for in person meeting on 23rd May. Once their telephone and internet connection have been restored, SLM will aim to offer blended meetings.

St Helens

St Helens Friends hope to meet for face-to-face Meeting for Worship from Sunday 18th April. A Covid risk assessment and safety measures are in place. StHLM asks AM to uphold its decision to open. Subject to Trustees agreement on the safety arrangements Area Meeting supports St Helens' Friends decision to reopen for Meeting for Worship as soon as possible.

Wigan

Wigan is meeting once a month via Zoom. Friends are hoping to meet for in person worship soon and will await further guidance from Trustees. Friends are also considering outdoor meetings and blended meetings. Wigan Friends are encouraged to also join our Area Meeting worship by zoom.

Liverpool

Liverpool Meeting is continuing to meet by Zoom and will start to have open air meetings at Arundel Avenue burial ground soon.

25/2021 Meeting for Sufferings

Richard Melling attended MfS meeting yesterday and will report on this meeting in due course. As blended meetings are likely offered in future, Richard raised the issue of the technical equipment and expertise required to hold successful blended meeting. We will ask Meeting House Manager Gayle Allen to provide advice to AM once she returns from furlough.

26/2021 Hardshaw Estates

Ref. AM Minute 2021/14 the trustees of Hardshaw Estates were asked to consider whether the merger of Hardshaw Estates with Hardshaw and Mann would be a more prudent way forward than closing the Hardshaw Estates charity altogether in order to protect any currently unknown assets of the charity, and to take appropriate legal advice on the matter. As requested the HE trustees consulted Stephen Claus at Brabners to discuss this option, and on considering his opinion have confirmed that they intend to proceed as originally agreed. I.e. to close Hardshaw Estates and transfer the charity's assets between Hardshaw and Mann Area Meeting and Manchester and Warrington Meeting as described in AM minute 2021/14.

27/2021 Area Meeting Structure Working Group

No further developments since our February meeting.

28/2021 Safeguarding

No safeguarding issues have been reported

The meeting closed following a short period of Worship at 1.10pm.

Appendices:

- 1. Southport Local Meeting Minutes April 2021**
- 2. St Helens Local Meeting Minutes April 2021**
- 3. Wigan Local Meeting Minutes April 2021**
- 4. Liverpool Local Meeting Minutes April 2021**
- 5. Meeting for Sufferings briefing**

APPENDIX 1

Southport Local Meeting for Worship for Business 4/4/21 Present 5 Friends

21/21 Advices and Queries have been read since our last LMfWB

22/21 Gerard was appointed as our representative for the Area Meeting for Business to be held on Sunday 11th April.

23/21 Our MfW has continued during March meeting online with faithful Friends holding a half hour MfW followed by sharing of support. On 28th March 4 friends attended the online Area MfW for one hour. It has been agreed that Southport Friends will continue their own MfW on a Sunday, but will attend the Area MfW on the 4th Sunday of a month. Other Friends not on Zoom have connected with each other in other ways and hold each other in the Light.

24/21 We await BT Openreach on 14th April. They will then lift and shift the internet connection point to a more appropriate location.

25/21 We still await the appointment of a new treasurer. Nominations are attempting to find a suitable person.

26/21 It was agreed that the Meeting House would reopen for face to face Meeting for Worship on the Sunday after 17th May (step 3 of the steps out of lockdown). We will work towards a Blended Meeting, but Gerard will report back to the meeting on progress at the May Local Meeting for Business.

27/21 We have been contacted by Marleen Schepers at Quaker Central Office in connection with a prisoner in Wymott prison. He is asking for support from Quakers and that a Meeting for Worship be held in the prison. Our friend Gerard has connections with Wymott in his capacity as the Prison Support Officer for Southport Samaritans. Gerard has emailed the Lead Chaplain at Wymott to ask how this support and a meeting be facilitated. It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Area Meeting for further discussion.

28/21 In view of the ongoing discussion, a brief discussion was held about the term “overseer”. We agree that the term “overseer” is possibly in need of revision.

29/21 We hold our Friend Elizabeth Rowland-Elliott in the light whilst she recovers from a short time in hospital . We also hold our friend Isobel Dunbar in the light.

Signed Clerk
GT Hughes

St. Helens Quakers
Meeting for Worship for Business

Present on Zoom: Mike Bartram, Joanne Gibbons, Mary Presland, Ann Stanley, Maureen Holmes, Richard Foster, Jamie Goff, Neil Goodhand, Ken Robinson and Mike Skidmore. Roy Vaughan attended by telephone.

Agenda (one item):

The resumption of Meeting for Worship in our own building

2021: 1 In view of the easing of lock-down conditions, and the recent improvements regarding the Covid-19 level, we have decided to recommence meeting in St. Helens Meeting House from Sunday 11th April. We will take careful note of future developments, either positive or negative, and will respond to them accordingly.

In addition to this, and bearing in mind that not everyone will be willing (or even able) to return to the Meeting House yet, we will continue a Wednesday evening Zoom Meeting for Worship for the time being, which anyone may choose to attend whether or not they have been attending on Sunday.

APPENDIX 3

Minutes of Wigan LM 09.04.2021

Held via Zoom

5 Friends Present

Minute 1. Representative to Area Meeting

We appoint Our Friend Eric Silk to be our representative to the ensuing Area Meeting to be held on 11.04.2021.

Minute 2. Reading

Paragraph 26.30 from Quaker Faith and Practice was read at our Meeting today.

Minute 3. Accounts

We thank our treasurer for presenting her clear and concise accounts.

Minute 4. Collections

We have collected for the charity Empathy North West. This was for a specific project. We plan to give a second donation when the charity has set up its "Just Giving Page" on the internet.

Minute 5. Reopening of Meeting Houses

BYM has reminded AM trustees that there is a need to check all Meeting House Risk Assessments prior to the reopening of any of our buildings. Our trustees are due to meet next on the 26th of this month. We hope to be able to meet in our Meeting House after that date.

Minute 6. Sale of our Meeting House

A mind boggling list of questions has been received from the solicitor dealing with our side of the sale. They are being completed and submitted. Our friend Rachel Grimshaw continues to be concerned to know that the buyer has received the full information including the report from the structural engineer. We ask our Area Meeting Clerk to confirm that this has been done.

Eric Silk
Clerk this time
08.04.2021

APPENDIX 4

MINUTES OF LIVERPOOL QUAKER MEETING HELD ON 4th April 2021

BY VIDEO CONFERENCING

There were 11 Friends present, hosted on Zoom by Anna Aiston

At the table Gareth Evans and Anna Aiston.

Quaker Faith and Practice 26.30 was considered in Meeting for Worship.

Quaker Faith and Practice 26.56 was read during opening worship.

18/2021 Representatives to Area Meeting.

We thank our Friends Ian Jones and Linda Gibbs for attending Area Meeting on 14th February 2021.

We appoint our Friends Linda Gibbs and Aidan Childes to attend Area Meeting on 11th April 2021.

19/2021 Elders and Pastoral Team report.

Aidan Childes presented a report on the work of the Elders and Pastoral team in February and March which is attached to these minutes.

We set a budget of £1600 for our Pastoral Team and £600 for our Eldership Team for their work in Liverpool Meeting.

20/2021 Journey to COP (UN climate change conference of parties).

Lisa Hoyle will coordinate a walk for COP at Arundel Avenue, and Anna Aiston will coordinate a walk to Crosby beach, with the Quaker banner, for Friends in the Crosby area on the weekend of 10th to 12th April.

21/2021 Meeting for Worship.

We will continue with Meeting for Worship by zoom until trustees decide circumstances allow the Meeting House to open again.

Elders and the Pastoral Team and key holders will arrange the times of open air Meetings for Worship at Arundel Avenue. They will keep Friends informed through the google group and WhatsApp.

St. Helens are opening up their Meeting House. While restrictions continue Friends are encouraged to visit other Meetings or Friends, in a covid regulations compliant way, for in person Meeting for Worship.

22/2021 Jonathan Griffith.

Elders and the Pastoral Team will send a welcome home gift when Jonathan Griffith returns home from hospital. The cost will be met from Local Meeting funds.

Gareth Evans and Anna Aiston, co-clerks

APPENDIX 5

Meeting for Sufferings (MfS)

- MfS is the standing representative body that decides the priorities and sets the direction of the Yearly Meeting in the Long-Term Framework
- It reviews and tests concerns referred by Area Meetings
- MfS also gives guidance on policy issues as requested by the BYM Trustees
- MfS currently takes place virtually, every 2 months
- All papers and minutes are available here: [Papers and minutes | Quakers in Britain](#)

My understanding is that Trustees are currently focused on two main concerns:

1. progress towards the concept of a simple church supported by a simple charity, and,
2. the best way to involve Friends in the work of BYM

If one wishes to contribute to the conversation, the address to use is:

clerkoftrustees@quaker.org.uk

Richard Melling (MfS rep)