

# YOUNG FRIENDS GENERAL MEETING (YFGM)

*Lancaster Friends Meeting House, 23rd – 26th May 2003*

## *Minutes*

### **Present:**

Co-Clerks:	Sarah Donaldson	Co-Convenor of Overseers:	Guy Milner
	Nick Sturge	Treasurer:	Jenny Moy
Convenor of Officers:	Vivian Barty-Taylor	Officer of Outreach:	Ruth Wood
Convenor of Nominations Committee:		Ellie Colyer	
Coordinator:	Simon Best		

### **Monthly Meeting Representatives:**

Balby:	Pearl Morris	Cambridge & Peterborough:	Lucy Baines
Devonshire House & Tottenham:	Dasie Auty	Hampstead:	Rachel Arnold
Lancaster:	Helen Close	Luton & Leighton:	Claire Morris
North Wales:	Joe Anderson	Northumbria:	Sophie Rackham
	Anna Jones	North Somerset & Wiltshire:	Tim Hudson
Notts. & Derbys.:	Paul Sladen	Norwich & Lynn:	Richy Rushmer
Staffordshire:	Marie Drouin	South East Scotland:	Roz Currie
South Wales:	Becky Herring	Southampton & Portsmouth:	Mark Siddal
Thaxted:	Ben Parker	Warwickshire:	Anna Dicker
West Devon:	Paddy Uglow	Worcestershire & Shropshire:	Dawn Filtness
	Hannah Jones		
Ireland Yearly Meeting:	Barbara Johnson		
	Dawn Marie Rafferty		

Adam Boardman, Aidan McCartney, Alice Lynch, Anne Pommier, Amanda Headley-White, Bluebell Eikonoklastes, David Sunderland, Ella Kingham Speirs, Ellie Straughton, Ellen Marshall, Eloise White, Emily Parr, Eudora Pascall, Flip Bridges, Harry Kingham, Hugo Finley, Hugh Williams, James Barnard, Jennifer Brett, Jenny Shellens, Jonathan Riddell, Joe Coffin, Juliette Stoller, Katy Turquoise, Linda Batten, Laura Wirtz, Marion Penn, Mike Stokes, Nessa Williams, Peggy Brett, Rachel Phillips, Rachel Barker, Roanna Heller, Rowan Burrough, Ruth Todhunter, Sarah Freeman, Simon Gray, Simon Shepherd, Zephyr Wood **TOTAL:76**

### **03/20 Opening Minute**

We welcome each other to Lancaster for our May YFGM. We look forward to our time together and to a chance to get to know one another in that which is eternal.

We especially welcome Dawn-Marie Rafferty and Barbara Johnson from Ireland Yearly Meeting.

### **03/21 Examiners of YFGM Accounts**

Further to minute 02/34 we no longer need to appoint examiners for all of the constituent YFGM accounts, we now just appoint an examiner for the consolidated accounts. We appointed Ian Jackson for this in minute 02/43. We note that the examiners for our constituent accounts for 2002 will be as follows:

General Fund: Ian Jackson  
Employment Fund: Gavin Burnell  
Pardshaw Account: Janet Lynch

Events Account:

Appeal Account: William Penn

Young Quaker: Dave Moll

World Gathering of Young Friends: to be announced

### **03/22 Quaker Questionnaire**

We welcome Rosie Rutherford to our meeting. She is currently undertaking research on what Quakers believe and what keeps the Quaker community together. She has asked us to be one of the meetings who fill in her questionnaire. We are pleased to be involved in her research and wish her well with it.

### **03/23 Response to War**

We have had a powerful session of worship in which we have shared our reactions to the recent war in some of its many aspects. Our personal responses are all different, but prompted by the same spirit. We are united in a longing for a more peaceful world. We take strength from each other as we go forward as individuals and as YFGM as a whole.

### **03/24 Talking About our Quakerism**

Eudora Pascall, Press and Communications Officer for Britain Yearly Meeting, has joined us to help us explore how we talk about our Quakerism. We considered what Outreach is, and what sometimes prevents us from talking to people about what we believe. We thank Eudora and Outreach Committee for organising this useful and interesting session.

### **03/25 World Gathering of Young Friends**

We are pleased to have had an update on the progress towards this event. Fundraising is now well under way. Several Young Friends shared their visions for the World Gathering at a Special Interest Group earlier today. The Europe-based Committee will be having an open meeting over 8th – 10th August, in Reading which we are encouraged to attend to find out more and get involved.

### **03/26 Young Friends National Gathering**

We are sorry to hear that it was necessary to cancel the proposed Young Friends National Gathering on Bible Study. The planning group took the decision to cancel because not enough people had booked to attend. The event lost £20.25 as the deposit was non-refundable. We thank the group for their work.

### **03/27 Crèche Age Limit**

Following on from minute 03/07 there has been a Special Interest Group and further discussions today. It was felt that it is inappropriate at this time for YFGM to consider having an upper age limit on children who may attend YFGM. YFGM's childcare policy is now at the stage of being a working document which our crèche coordinators will take forward.

### **03/28 Mental Health Appeal**

The YFGM Mental Health Appeal is both about raising money and about raising awareness of mental health issues. The Appeal Group have been working hard and encourage us all to get involved. They are planning an event on Creativity and Mental Health to be held in Bristol from 4th – 6th July.

Today, through creative listening and collective worship we have explored issues including what mental health means to us and how we might be able to make YFGM a more supportive environment. There are no easy answers, but we do understand the value of creating a trusting community where we care for one another as best we can.

### **03/29 Living Witness Project**

Linda Batten, one of our representatives on the Living Witness Project Link Group, has told us about the Living Witness Project meetings she has attended and some of the work that other member Meetings are doing.

We have done a brainstorming exercise and designed some posters to get us thinking about the themes of living simply, living lightly and being connected with the world. We have enjoyed this chance to focus on our lives and what we might do to simplify them. We encourage and support each other in taking these actions and in telling other people why we are doing them.

### **03/30 Radical Restructuring**

Members of Finance Committee have reported to us on various difficulties with current YFGM structures.

We currently have a large number of different accounts, all with different Treasurers. As a result we need to recruit, train and support a large number of people. We would like to think carefully about what alternative structures we might use. We ask that a group be formed to take this idea forward. We expect that the group will be made up of some members of Finance Committee, Management Group, Officers, perhaps Nominations Committee, some people who have a good amount of experience of YFGM structures and some others who have a general interest in reaching a good solution.

The group will have one meeting and we will pay the expenses of up to ten people who attend. We look forward to hearing from the group in October.

### **03/31 Our Coordinator Post**

We are in the process of applying for a new grant from the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust. We have heard from Management Group who have considered our current Coordinator post. Our Coordinator currently works 20 hours a week doing a combination of administration, outreach and bookkeeping. We agree that the post of Coordinator is very important to YFGM and we wish it to continue in its present form.

We want to continue to employ a Coordinator and maintain an office. Taking our current financial situation into account, we will extend our Coordinator's contract until the end of 2004.

### 03/32 Volunteers

We thank the following people for volunteering to help in the following ways at the next YFGM in Croydon 10th –12th October:

Jennifer Brett	}	Caterers
Marion Penn		
Paul Sladen		

Jonathan Riddell	}	Janitors
Paddy Uglow		

Nick Sturge                      Pan transport  
Off-floor Accommodation to be arranged

### 03/33 Why YFGM?

We have spent time considering why we come to YFGM and what we would like YFGM to be and do. We value YFGM as a worshipping community and appreciate the fun and fellowship we find here. We have many new and different ideas for how YFGM might develop and we look forward to seeing some of them in practice at future YFGMs.

### 03/34 Nominations

We appoint the following people to serve in the following posts for the periods mentioned. We release from service those mentioned, warmly thanking them for their work on our behalf.

<u>Position</u>	<u>Period</u>	<u>Released from service</u>	<u>Person Appointed</u>
Co-Clerk	3 years	Sarah Donaldson	Nessa Williams
Quintessential	3 years	Linda Batten	Hugo Finley
Quintessential	3 years	Nessa Williams	To be appointed
Overseer	2 years	Daisy O'Flynn	Mike Stokes
YQ Editor	3 years	Frances Hopkins	Becky Herring
Appeal Treasurer	3 years	Jenny Shellens	Jennifer Brett
Meeting for Sufferings Representative	3 years	Adam Boulter	Rachel Arnold
British Youth Council Representative	3 years	Marion Penn	Emily Parr
Appeal Group	until February 2004	Cathie Swailes	Anna Jones Amanda Headley-White
Second Crèche Coordinator	3 years	-	Ruth Todhunter
Nominations Committee	2 years	Anna Page	Ellen Marshall

### **03/35 New Trustee**

Further to minute 03/34 we have appointed Nessa Williams as an Officer and a Trustee for a period of three years.

### **03/36 Minute of Record: Changes of Signatory**

We authorise the following people as signatories to the following accounts:

General Fund: Nessa Williams, Nick Sturge, Jenny Moy

Employment Fund: Nessa Williams, Nick Sturge, Dawn Filtness

Events Account: Nessa Williams, Nick Sturge, Marion Penn

Appeal Account: Jennifer Brett, Anne Pommier, Sally Knowles

### **03/37 Closing Minute**

We thank each other for the peaceful and worshipful long weekend we have enjoyed together here in Lancaster.

Our business sessions have covered a broad range of subjects and issues that are very important to us: peace, outreach, mental health, living simply. We greatly value being able to explore such themes, share our experiences and take away strength to live better lives. We have also looked at some important questions on how we are managing YFGM as an organisation, and we look forward to the fruits these sessions will bear.

Our lives are constantly changing. YFGM provides us with the opportunity for our lives to touch each other – each of our meetings is a crossroads for us. At this junction Sarah Donaldson's time as our Co-Clerk has come to an end. Her extremely competent, sensitive and conscientious work at the table has benefited us all. We have valued her humour and directness, and we wish her every success for the future.

Our next YFGM together will be in Croydon in October. There are many meetings, gatherings and events taking place between now and then, and we look forward to those times together, before we meet again as this larger community. We wish each other safe journeys and a happy summer.

Signed in and on behalf of Young Friends General Meeting

Sarah Donaldson & Nicholas Sturge  
Co-Clerks