

Young Friends General Meeting

YOUNG ADULT QUAKERS IN BRITAIN



Young Friends General Meeting

Norwich Friends Meeting House

20-22 February 2015

Minutes

Those Present:

Holly Alcock, Sam Barnett-Cormack, Jessica Beck, Rhian Blades, Hilary Botwright, Hannah Brock, Joseph Brydon, Toni Carmichael-Harris, Sarah Castle, Aidan Childs, Stephen Clement, Tas Cooper, Carla Denyer, Peter Doubtfire, Kim Edwards, Ellen Elliott, Rachel Evans, Toby Freeman, Joseph Fuller, Rajit Gholap, Cáit Gould, Ruth Grahame, Catherine Gregory, Thomas Hancock, Eleanor Hargreaves, Rachael Harrison, Owen Jennings, Edward Owen Jones, Sophie Loewendahl, Francesca Loise, Iwona Luszowicz, Hannah Marsh, Rici Marshall, Rhiannon Rees, Andrew Rendle, Becky Riddell, Tim Rouse, Dorina Shahaj, Beatrice Shelley, Elinor Smallman, Chris Stapenhurst, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, James Surry, Nick Watts, Alice Woodhead

Total: 46

Co-Clerks: Brigid Stoney & Peter Doubtfire

Trustees: Peter Doubtfire, *Jenny McCarthy*, *Ericka Smith*, Alyn Still, Brigid Stoney, *Rachael Swancott Boon* (present / absent)

Coordinator: Tim Rouse

2015.01 Nominations to Nominations

We agree to extend Sam Barnett-Cormack's service on nominations committee until February 2016. We hope that this extension will provide stability for the committee, whilst allowing other members to take on more responsibility and grow into the role of convenor.

2015.02 Working Group on the prevention of Trident replacement

Further to minute 2014.19, a working group has formed to consider ways of acting on our concern for preventing the replacement of Trident nuclear weapons. The members of this working group are; Hannah Brock, Peter Doubtfire, Ella Booth, Nick Watts, Chris Stapenhurst, Angharad Rhys and Emma Anthony.

We thank Hannah and Nick for giving us an update on progress and exciting plans for how YFGM can take action on this concern, including plans for a YF(GM free) event in March.

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2015.03 Nominations Returns

Role	Released	Appointed	Until
Quintessential	Ellen Elliott	Rajit Gholap	February 2018
Overseer	Rhian Blades	Jessica Beck	February 2017
<i>The Young Quaker</i> Editor	Tim Searle-Barnes Julian Wood	Hilary Botwright Joseph Brydon	February 2018
Planning Weekend Newcomers	Stephen Clement Eleanor Hargreaves Rhiannon Rees	Francesca Loise Hilary Botwright Toni Carmichael-Harris	May 2015
Mental Wellbeing Working Group	None (new role)	Becky Riddell Catherine Gregory (acting convenor) Ellen Elliott Hilary Botwright	February 2017
YFGM Representative to <i>Towards a Quaker View of Mental Health</i> conference	None (one-off role)	Rhian Blades	May 2015
YFGM Representative to Living Witness	Sophie Loewendahl	Carried forward	
General Fund Treasurer	Edward Ullathorne	None (handover)	

We nominate Elinor Smallman for the role of Pollard & Dickson Trust Distributor, and agree to forward this name Six Weeks Meeting.

We are aware of the need to uphold all those appointed to roles, especially where people are taking on multiple roles.

2015.04 Change of Signatories

Further to Minute 2015.03, Nominations Returns, we appoint:

- Tas Cooper (General Fund Treasurer)
- Brigid Stoney (Co-Clerk)
- Peter Doubtfire (Co-Clerk)

as signatories to the general fund current account and general fund deposit account.

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2015.05 Report from Newcomers to Planning Weekend

We thank Stephen Clements, Ellie Hargreaves, and Rhiannon Rees for their report on their experiences as Planning Weekend Newcomers.

2015.06 Catering

We thank Holly Alcock and Beatrice Shelley for catering this weekend.

2015.07 Clerk's Offering

We have come together this weekend for YFGM in Norwich to celebrate our community, spirituality and faith in action.

We heard from Christine Putz and Catherine Habgood from Central Nominations Committee about the opportunities available for services in the wider Quaker community. We were asked to discuss the barriers to younger friends serving on wider committees and to consider possible solutions. This sparked some interesting discussions around age and skills and how service may change throughout our lives. Christine and Catherine encouraged all members of YFGM to consider sharing their skills, now or in the future.

Once again our special interest groups reflected the varied interests of YFGM. Work continues on our concerns, with Becky Riddell leading a session on Mental Wellbeing, whilst the Trident working group led a session on writing letters to those in power.

We further considered speaking truth to power with a session on using your vote to express your faith in action, led by Lesley Grahame.

Paul Parker asked us to consider membership and to explore young friends' views on becoming members of BYM. We also heard from Hugh Jones and James Surry from Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship. We celebrated the progress that has been made towards equality through equal marriage, but were reminded that there is still work to be done to create true equality across Quakers. The group discussed possible links between YFGM and QLGF in the future.

We also found time for quiet reflection with a session on worship sharing led by Becky Riddell and a chance to explore Norwich.

Throughout the weekend we have enjoyed living as a community – sharing our joys, worries and hopes over meals, cups of tea and games. Overseers provided us with a fun and lively entertainments session, testing our ability to describe film, music and Quaker jargon through drawing, mime, fast-talking and play-dough modelling. Feeling the tension of competing against each other and the clock, our teams bonded through laughter, frustration and the satisfaction of getting a tricky answer.

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Through these shared moments we become more than a collection of people with a shared interest, and experience genuine friendship.

Through spirituality sessions and epilogues, Quintessential have helped us to explore gratitude and thankfulness. Chris Wood and Shan Barclay introduced us to Pagan and Islamic approaches to giving thanks. Though this may take many different outward forms, an inner sincerity in being grateful for blessing large and small seems to cross boundaries of faith. We offered our own responses to the question 'what are we grateful for?' through art. Our individual images were drawn together into a mandala: a circle representing wholeness around which the community gathered to reflect; while Rajit Gholap invited us to explore the oneness between body and spirit through yogic movement and stillness.

We are deeply grateful for the fellowship and community we experience at YFGM – having the space to lovingly uphold one another is a precious gift. We give thanks for this weekend, and look forward to meeting again at Leicester in May.

Brigid Stoney & Peter Doubtfire, Co-clerks