



**August  
2008**

# Scottish Friend

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**Settling down after lunch at General Meeting in Kelso**

Andrew Farrar took the cover photograph and the 2<sup>nd</sup> Kindrogan. Next General Meeting is on 20 September, so the next *Scottish Friend* will be constructed in the last week in October, as soon as the agenda for November GM is known. Please send material to me, Margaret Peacock, at 16 Drumlin Drive, Milngavie, G62 6LN, or [nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nmjpeacock@yahoo.co.uk).

Many thanks to all who have made suggestions. Please go on sending me news, reports, thoughts and pictures.

The opinions expressed in this publication are those of the writers and not necessarily the opinions of the Society of Friends in Scotland, Britain Yearly Meeting or elsewhere.

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## Scottish Friends' Summer Gathering - Kindrogan , June 2008

We were about 30 Friends, including a large group of teenagers (no younger children this year) at a showery but ever-lovely Kindrogan.

I found the programme inspirational and I'm sure I was not alone in this response. We were led by Michael Hutchinson from Friends' House. The food was excellent throughout and comfortable seating has been purchased for the lounge since I last visited. The air was sensuously filled with the scent of the pines and spring blossoms and rain showers on the fertile ground.

Friends who knew each other met as ever, and those who did not were soon bonded together in happy fellowship. We brought with us an object symbolic of TIME and a contribution to the ceilidh.

Saturday kicked off with a well-illustrated address from Michael on TIME, in its geological, generational and personal aspects. The teenagers remained throughout and I think that they too found it interesting, even parts of the talk which were quite technical. After coffee we presented a variety of fossils, photographs, drawings and even a P60 form! Each had a personal story attached to it.

The teenagers worked on our "timelines" - i.e. our personal histories and also engaged us with one-to-one survey questions. At other times they just enjoyed meeting up together.

The ceilidh completed the theme of TIME, with songs, clarinet, drums, poems, an adult clown and dancing. It was very good.

Feedback on Sunday gave us a chance to share some deep feelings and after Meeting for Worship we departed home.

We hope that, since the cost of the weekend has increased, Friends,

especially those with families, will take up bursary help and join us next year in greater numbers.

Our very grateful thanks are due to Michel Hutchinson, who put a lot of expertise, time and energy into our weekend. We shall remember it for a day, two days, a week, a year, a lifetime, six generations, a thousand years, 500 thousand years, 2 million years - - - .



Mary and Nigel had an "alphabet breakfast" at the ceilidh.

## DIRECTOR OF SCOTTISH CHURCHES HOUSE

Scottish Churches House (SCH) in Dunblane, one of the UK's premier ecumenical conference centres, is looking to appoint an experienced leader as its new director. As director, you would be responsible for advancing the mission and vision of SCH as a place of encounter and hospitality. You would be expected to provide inspirational leadership of a small effective team of people and to develop opportunities which ensure the sustainable financial viability of the House. You should have excellent project and people management skills. Ecumenical experience and theological understanding would also be desirable attributes.

This is an exciting opportunity to develop SCH in a challenging role to be at the forefront of the work of the churches together in Scotland. Salary up to £30k plus rent-free accommodation (successful applicant will be required to live on-site in Dunblane). Full details of the job specification together with application form are available from Mike O'Donnell, c/o Church of Scotland, 121 George Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YN. Closing date for applications 15 September 2008.



## Scottish Administrator - New Appointment

Since 1999, Quakers in Scotland have employed a part-time staff-member to support the Clerk and other GM office-bearers in carrying out Quaker work. Graham Marsden has filled this post with distinction for 9 years, but has now resigned to give himself more time for other activities.

Applications are now invited for the post of Administrator for General Meeting for Scotland. He or she will support the GM and its appointed officers, especially the Clerk and the GM Special Representative to outside bodies. He or she will provide information to Friends and members of the public, maintain the database of records and produce of the Book of Members and Attenders.

The work will be varied and interesting, done mainly from home, with all necessary equipment being provided. It will average 8 hours per week with occasional evening and weekend work. Some flexibility of hours will be needed since workload varies throughout the year.

The person appointed will work closely with the GM Clerk and will be supported by a link person.

We are looking for someone living in, or about to move to, Scotland, who has familiarity with Quakers, is well-organised and self-motivated, has interpersonal skills, and has some experience and proficiency in the efficient use of IT - Microsoft Office or similar.

Remuneration will be £3,800 per year initially, plus pension contribution, and an allowance for home working. All expenses will be paid.

Further details may be obtained from the GM Clerk, Robin Waterston, 128 North St, St. Andrews KY16 9AF.  
Email address: [robin.waterston128@gmail.com.]

Closing date for applications: 1st September 2008

Do you know someone who might be interested in this opportunity for service? If so please do draw this to their attention. We ask all Friends and Attenders to publicise this in their local meetings.



## **PRISON MEETINGS**

**David Turner**

During the past four or five years Edinburgh Quakers have been involved in arranging meetings with groups of prisoners, mostly sex-offenders, at Edinburgh Prison, in cooperation with the Chaplaincy. So far about prisoners have been contacted in this way, a group consisting of six or seven on average. The aim has been to encourage, in a safe and supportive atmosphere, using a type of creative listening, expression of feelings over life experiences, with an emphasis on the good and positive things we recall and value.

At the outset we agree some guidelines on the principles to be upheld, eg., confidentiality, respect. At each of the four weekly sessions of about one and a half hours some questions are suggested to get us started, with assurances that we need speak only if we wish, and that times of quietness can have a special value. Careful listening, giving time for reflection, is at the heart of the experience.

In the most recent series, thirteen people, including five Friends, took part over the span of weeks, some of us attending all sessions, most at least three. Among the themes of the meetings were: reflection on early and growing years; people we had / have good feelings about; what we wanted to be /do; and what we value in others and in ourselves. As the weeks passed there were thoughts on trust, learning experiences, friendship, what is deeply important to us, our current and future challenges. In the final week, after allowing for further reflection on some of the above, we reviewed what the group had expected, and sought responses on what value it might have had for us.

These included the following:

I was unsure to begin with, but later felt I could talk about my feelings and really enjoyed it.

We can tell our stories here - good and not so good.

It makes you think more deeply.

This isn't like anything else here.

It's easier to share your feelings with people you don't know.

This is needed outside prison too.

Those of us who have been taking part for some time in the groups make no claims that we are doing more than reaching out in friendship to people who, like most of us, have harmed others and ourselves. We hope that, in a small way, a process of upholding and strengthening the good that is in us all has been taking place. We feel we are no better equipped for encouraging such a process than very many Friends throughout Scotland, and would gladly share what has been learned with any who are interested in exploring possibilities of something similar elsewhere.

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This is a sight that Bryan Bowes captured for us in Tasmania.  
I'm told it is an everyday sight in the United States!

I can't read it all, either, but here is most of it.

Love this place - - Smoking or non-smoking

Jesus - don't leave earth without him.

Eternity

John 3.16 - For God so loved the world - -

Why worry - God's in control    Need directions? - Ask God

Tasmania - your natural state

No Jesus, no peace

Love happens

All things are possible

Know Jesus, Know peace

to him that believes.

Did you thank God today?

Smile - Jesus loves you

No Jesus, no heaven

?

Know Jesus, know heaven



## Scottish Churches Housing Action

**Alastair Cameron**

Scottish Churches Housing Action brings together 13 Christian bodies, including Quakers, together under the slogan “No room for homelessness!” Chief Executive, Alastair Cameron, looks at the finance required to keep this small national charity going.

Wise words from an old proverb: 'don't put all your eggs in one basket'. Charities have to follow this advice - money from one source can easily dry up, and leave you scrambling to recover. Scottish Churches Housing Action spreads its income across a range of sources.

The churches are a key contributor - after all, the churches established us as a way of working together on the national problem of homelessness. Each has an equal voice in the organisation - one place around the Board table. John Foster of Tweeddale local meeting represents General Meeting for Scotland. But the churches are all different sizes, and the Church of Scotland obviously makes a bigger financial contribution than the Quakers. Last year, 12% of our income came from the national church bodies.

Local churches and meetings also make a contribution. While the GM'S contribution is relatively small - £100 last year - local Quaker meetings put up £330. And individual Quakers gave £929 - a very generous contribution compared with our numbers in Scotland, and with other denominations.

Last year, 3% of our income came from local church contributions, and 13% from individuals - though the latter was boosted by a single donation of £20,000, which sadly doesn't come our way very often! The Scottish Government recognises the role we play both in developing local volunteering to help homeless people and in encouraging the development of affordable housing from church-owned property. They contributed 42% of our income last year towards these activities. We welcome the confidence this

investment demonstrates in our work, but we are aware of the many competing demands on their funds. We are presently in the last year of a 3-year funding programme, and are anxious about whether we will be successful in attracting continued support. The Board wants to reduce our reliance on this source.

Trusts put up 7% of our income. We want to increase this, but much trust funding is short-term in nature, and tied in to particular projects. We have a volunteer who regularly seeks out trusts with an interest in our area of work, and who prepares applications - it's intensive work, with little certainty of a result.

Which brings us to contract work. Charities are increasingly becoming 'social enterprises' - delivering a job for which people are prepared to pay, and ploughing the proceeds back into the organisation. For an enabling body like ourselves, this is mostly with bigger organisations like councils and housing associations - and the property bodies of some of our member churches are recognising the value we bring to their work, and paying us a consultancy fee. But in large measure we are still a traditional charity that needs to raise income from its natural supporters. We have spent some time this year looking at raising our profile and explaining more clearly the benefit we bring - and exploring ways of linking with the private sector and securing support from that source.

Our basic message is: we are a small body that uses your money well - we don't spend it on press advertising and sponsoring rock festivals; it all goes into the basic costs of our staff, our premises, and the work we do towards ending homelessness in Scotland.

Scottish Churches Housing Action, 28 Albany Street,  
EDINBURGH, EH1 3QH  
t: 0131 477 4500; f: 0131 477 2710; e: [info@churches-housing.org](mailto:info@churches-housing.org);  
[www.churches-housing.org](http://www.churches-housing.org)

## **If the War goes on**

If the war goes on and the children die of hunger,  
and the old men weep - for the young men are no more,  
and the women learn how to dance without a partner -  
who will keep the score?

If the war goes on and the truth is taken hostage;  
and new terrors lead to the need to euphemise,  
when the calls for peace are declared unpatriotic,  
Who'll expose the lies?

If the war goes on and the daily bread is terror,  
and the voiceless poor take the road as refugees;  
when a nation's pride destines millions to be homeless,  
who will heed their pleas?

If the war goes on and the rich increase their fortunes,  
and the arms sales soar as new weapons are displayed,  
when a fertile field turns to no-man's-land tomorrow,  
who'll approve such trade?

If the war goes on will we close the doors to heaven,  
if the war goes on, will we breach the gates of hell;  
if the war goes on, will we ever be forgiven,  
If the war goes on - - -.

Words and music: John L. Bell & Graham Maule

Sent in by June Braithwaite

**Dear Editor**

I wonder if any readers can help us with information about the Scottish branches of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom? There were several branches in Scotland post First World War and during the early 1920's. Do any readers know where I might find relevant documents? Or would anyone who has been a member more recently be willing to talk to me about their experience?

Edinburgh Peace & Justice is looking into the links between the suffrage movement and early women peace activists. This research is part of the 'Gude Cause', a project to mark the centenary of the Women's Suffrage Procession in Edinburgh in 1909. We are coordinating activities leading up to a re-enactment of the procession to pay tribute to the struggle of women to obtain the right to vote and to celebrate women's activism over the past 100 years.

Best wishes, Helen Kay and Janet Fenton

Edinburgh Peace and Justice Resource Centre  
St John's Church  
Princes Street  
Edinburgh  
EH2 4BJ  
Tel: 0131 229 0993 mob 07795594573  
[Email:gudecause@pjrc-edinburgh.org.uk](mailto:gudecause@pjrc-edinburgh.org.uk)



**Long Term Framework**

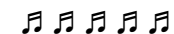
**Margaret Peacock**

Needless to say, Meeting for Sufferings could not leave the text alone. Our group had tweaked it as specified in YM, but not to everyone's satisfaction. There have been a few more tweakings, but there will be no more inviting Sufferings to pick out more nits. The document has been accepted. At the next meeting we shall expose some nits in the criteria, but that's all.

Now we have to try to fulfil the original vision of closing the gap between "them" and "us" - i.e. fill in the abyss of mutual ignorance among local Friends and the Centra Committees and Friends' House staff. The framework is for information and inspiration. It defines how Friends in Britain intend to spend their resources, and the Yearly Meeting trustees will use it to draw up the next Operational Plan for Friends' House staff. We now need to share experiences in every way we can, using the new Quaker Life networks and our Sufferings representatives. Friends' central website is already a mine of information and is expanding its content and accessibility all the time.

If Friends request it, it may be possible to include a section listing the current work of Friends' House. Using the Contacts link you can already access the websites of all Area Meetings that have them. Local newsletters are wonderful vehicles for communication, and could run articles taken from further afield - perhaps another Meeting's website, to enlarge the perceptions of Friends' who do not travel.

All Meetings can fill in their own niches in the framework and use it as part of a continually updated web of communication and information.



The following article appeared in the Guardian on 12.7.08.  
I think it is of abiding, as well as topical, interest, as Gene Robinson's point of view has many points of comparison with Quakers'.  
It is reprinted by permission of Guardian Newspaper and Media.  
"The Rt. Rev. Gene Robinson is the bishop of New Hampshire."

## Face to Faith

I believe in the living God. Now, that may not seem like a surprising statement for a bishop of the church to make - but as we approach the Lambeth conference of bishops, it may be a crucial belief to reaffirm.

The debate raging in the Anglican communion over the place for women and gays in the life and ministry of the church, and the name-calling about who does and does not accept the authority of scripture, belies a much deeper question: did God stop revealing God's self with the closing of the canon of scripture at the end of the first century, or has God continued to be self-revelatory through history, and right into the present?

My conservative brothers and sisters seem to argue that God revealed everything to us in scripture. Ever since, it has simply been our difficult but straightforward task to conform ourselves to God's will revealed there and to repent when we are unable or unwilling to do so.

**"The God I know is alive and well and active in the church - not locked up in scripture", says Gene Robinson**

For me, there is something static and lifeless in such a view of God. Could it be that even the Bible is too small a box in which to enclose god?

In my life, God seems infinitely more engaged with humankind than that, desiring a relationship with each one of us, continually attempting to lead us closer and closer to God's will. So too with the church. Isn't God - the living God - constantly making God's self and God's will more perfectly known to the church over time?

Jesus says a remarkable thing to his disciples at his last supper with them: "There is more that I would teach you, but you cannot bear it right now. So I will send the Holy Spirit who will 'lead you into all truth.'" Could it be that God revealed in Jesus Christ everything possible in a first-century Palestine setting to a ragtag band of fishermen and working men?

**Could it have been God's plan all along to reveal more and more of himself and his will as the church grew and matured?**

God, of course, was not and is not changing - but our ability to apprehend and comprehend God's will for us is. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, the church was led to permit eating things proscribed by Leviticus, to oppose slavery (after centuries of using scripture to defend it), and to permit and bless remarriage after divorce (despite Jesus' calling it adultery).

And now, by the leading of that same Spirit, we are beginning to welcome those who have heretofore been marginalised or excluded altogether: people of colour, women, the physically challenged, and God's children who happen to be gay.

This is the God I know in my life - who loves me, interacts with me, teaches and summons me closer and closer to God's truth. This God is alive and well and active in the church - not locked up in scripture 2,000 years ago, having said everything that needed to be said, but rather still interacting with us, calling us to love one another as he loves us. It is the brilliance of Anglicanism that we first and foremost read scripture, and then interpret it in light of church tradition and human reason. No one of us alone can be trusted to such a process because, left to our own devices, we recast God's will in our own image. But in the community of the church, together we are able to discern God's will for us - and sometimes that may mean reinterpreting, and even changing old understandings of things thought settled long ago.

In the midst of all the wrangling about who should be "in" and who should be "out", who is fit to lead and what relationships are worthy of blessing, can we find the grace to thank God for loving us enough to be engaged with us? Can we find the leading of the Holy Spirit - even into painful and, for the moment, divisive places - a blessing and not a curse? Can we discern God's hand in Anglicanism's current struggles? Can we rejoice that we worship not only a God of scripture and history, but a living God, who is leading us forward toward the truth at this very moment?

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## **Scottish Churches House - Report to GM** **Pamala McDougall, Representative Friend**

Following my article in the last edition of the Scottish Friend when I reminded Friends that the Jubilee Appeal had been launched to save SCH from closure, there is good news to report. The plan was to transform the House into a "fit for purpose" and financially self-supporting place. GM has been very generous in its support, donating £6,000 to the appeal. Individual Friends who greatly value the House have also given independently.

The target was to raise £500,000 by June from churches, individuals, organisations and Trust funds. In this short time the target has been met "in principle", with some promised funds awaited from Trusts. At the ACTS Forum meeting on 8 May when Margaret Peacock and I were moved to speak under the guidance of the Spirit, the decision was taken by 12 votes for, 3 votes against and 2 abstentions, to ensure the future of the House and to commence the Business Plan by proceeding to Phase 1, which is the en-suite development. We also passed a resolution to develop the most effective future governance for the management and development of SCH. This resolution was passed with 15 votes for and 2 abstentions. I noted that some of the reps. of the denominations voted in different ways so the churches were not united at times but Margaret and I had no such problem and were as one! And yes, we did vote although it is contrary to our tradition, but we saw no other way and felt OK about it on this occasion. The discussions and final decisions were taken in a sometimes tense and strongly emotional atmosphere, but the process was in right ordering and I believe the right decisions were made.

There have been some changes already, particularly in personnel. The warden, Alastair Hulbert and our Friend Liz Law have retired. Bruce Cameron, ex-primus of the Scottish Episcopal Church and his wife Elaine are installed as interim wardens for 9 months. In my

previous life as a midwife I see something prophetic in the timing! Having just returned from a conference at Woodbrooke I see its similarities with SCH in its development, and Woodbrooke is thriving after its makeover.

Briefly, other news of ACTS. The Forum has approved the Memorandum and Articles of Association for ACTS to be incorporated as a company limited by guarantee with charitable status. This will be registered separately from SCH although the two are closely involved..

I would like to thank GM for all the support, both financial and spiritual, we have been given during a lengthy and uncertain journey to ensure the continuation of the only ecumenical centre, not only in Scotland but in Europe which is wholly owned by the churches.

Friends now need to own the House on another level by using it as much as we can. It is a beautiful, peaceful, unique space and the ethos is such that I always feel better and more uplifted after a visit. Please think about retreats, meetings, days or weekends away from your usual meeting places. Maybe even a GM?

Review of ACTS Networks Report - copies available.  
"Edinburgh 2010" centenary of Edinburgh 1910 Ecumenical Conference. Leaflet available.



## **Geneva Ecumenical Visit by our Representative Friend Pamala McDougall**

GM supported my request to be a member of the Scottish Churches' ecumenical visit to Geneva from 18-23 May. The ACTS visit is an annual one but until GM appointed a Representative Friend with responsibilities for ecumenical affairs we have not been involved.

This was an exciting opportunity for me as an "ecumaniac" Friend to journey with 11 others on an ecumenical pilgrimage. The group was led by Lindsey Sanderson, Assistant Secretary of ACTS and the other participants were Stephen Smyth, General Secretary, and reps from Church of Scotland, Episcopalian, Salvation Army, United Reformed and Roman Catholic. We came from Glasgow, Inverness, Edinburgh, Rutherglen, Alloa and Angus. The group met together prior to the visit to talk through the programme in preparation, discuss practical details and to pray together. The 5 days were packed with meetings and presentations at the World Council of Churches (WCC) and at the ecumenical institute at Bossey, a short train ride from Geneva. We all stayed at John Knox International Centre, conveniently sited near the UN building and WCC.

There were too many visits and presentations for me to recount here so I will sketch a few highlights.

1st We joined with the staff at WCC each morning for an international half-hour service, thankfully in English, with joyful uplifting singing. The WCC promotes Christian unity in faith, witness and service for a just and peaceful world. It was founded in 1948 and today brings together over 340 Protestant, Orthodox, Anglican and others, representing 550 million Christians and works co-operatively with the Roman Catholic church. We were shown round the huge WCC building where several hundred work and were warmly welcomed. I noted a special warmth when "visitors from Scotland" were mentioned. The group were given presentations from the Ecumenical Advocacy Alliance, Conference of European Churches,

World Alliance of Reformed Churches, Migration and Uprooted People, the Decade to Overcome Violence, the AIDS programmes and the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme in Palestine and Israel - EAPPI. Actually the EAPPI International Co-ordinator, the Rev. Ian Alexander, is a Scot who wore his kilt in our honour!

#### 2nd Visit to Bossey Ecumenical Centre.

The Director himself gave the presentation and as the group members took turns to thank the speakers and give them a Scottish gift, this was my turn. His name was Rev Dr Shanta Premarwardhana and I hoped to pronounce it correctly. He knew all about Quakers and had studied in Birmingham quite a few years ago! The centre's location was quite beautiful, beside Lake Geneva and students come from all over the world to study ecumenism - young people, nuns, church people. But it is also attached to Geneva University and runs academic programmes eg PhD in ecumenical studies, a 5 year course. It has a well stocked library but did not have Quaker Faith and Practice until I presented the librarian with a copy, suitably inscribed from GM. He was delighted.

#### 3rd Visit to the Quaker United Nations Office.

A special highlight was the visit I managed to arrange to QUNO. Our Friend, Kevin Franz as General Secretary of Quaker Peace and Service has overall responsibility for the office, but it was Rachel Brett and 2 young enthusiastic interns who made this visit a significant extra to our programme. The group enjoyed an informal presentation over lunch in the Geneva Quaker Meeting House which also houses QUNO. The group were impressed at the variety and depth of work carried out by a small staff and there was an interested question and answer session. Many of the leaflets explaining Quaker involvement at the UN were taken by the group members and I was busy trying to answer questions afterwards, but the best bit of knowledge I had was the QUNO website which gives much more than I could offer.

4th The opportunity to meet at a deeper level with the participants and learn about WCC was a highlight for me. We also managed to have fun together, shared meals, visit the International Museum of the Reformation and were guests at a dinner hosted by the Minister and congregation of the C of S in Geneva.

A great experience and hopefully will have a positive outcome in the future. Thank you to GM for allowing me to represent you all ecumenically in Geneva.



#### **General Meeting for Scotland held at Kelso on 7th June** **Ann Millar**

There was a garden party atmosphere in the courtyard of Kelso MH as we arrived to bathe in the warmth of Kelso Friends welcome and the sun, to drink morning coffee/tea. Retiring inside we began the business after a period of worship and a round of introductions.

Our Friend Graham Marsden had given notice of resignation from his post of Administrative Secretary so our initial task was to decide on

'where do we go from here'? We decided to review this post and we wondered firstly if it was really what we needed. After some discussion it was agreed that the post should be to provide administrative support to enable Friends in Scotland to function effectively and that the Administrator be asked to attend GM regularly.

The accounts were presented and we agreed that proposed donations over £1000 be approved by Trustees. Friends were once again reminded to claim expenses, even if they donated it back to GM. The treasurer can make a simple adjustment to the books to record such a donation.

The long list of names brought forward by Nominations Committee were bundled together rather hastily and all named people left the room together. There were murmurings, however, that this was not in right ordering and to continue this way would deprive people named of the chance to comment on the other appointments in the list. We are to address this matter at a future GM. Meanwhile we were asked to let the Noms committee know what jobs, if any, we would like to do. This would help enormously in the process of finding names to bring forward. So, Friends - what would you like to do - be adventurous - try something that you don't know about and start a new learning curve!

Reports were received about the work of GM Trustees, Scottish Churches House, Scottish Churches Community Trust, the Representative Friend, and Meeting for Sufferings. All very interesting and you will find them else where in the Scottish Friend - please do read them. I would like to point out that Scottish Churches House has reached its fund-raising target and is open for visitors be it for family groups, holidays or meetings.

Once this business was past we enjoyed the reflections on BYM by members who had been there. Mike Perks described the 'Seeds of change' session, which envisaged a dynamic interaction between work and worship, with spiritual power flowing in both directions. Michael Hutchinson, member of Friends House staff, took us on a walk round FH in the run up to BYM, pointing out what they needed to look out for eg. adequate loo paper and how the pigeons were getting on in the large meeting room, where they come and go freely! There was also the need to remove the unprintable comments from the backs of seats, written by bored school children in exams. We learnt that the whole building becomes stretched at the seams once 800 or so visitors arrive. The need to keep a check on the support team and U19s programme work by giving support to them where needed. Margaret Mortimer's memories were quite different. One of the strong sessions that she attended, had to do with homophobic content of some recent African YM epistles and this raised the complex issues of censorship, legality, honesty and how to engage with YMs holding views that we see as offensive and discriminatory. We were helped in our understanding of this issue by a contribution from Robin Waterston who spoke about the current position of gay and lesbian people in Kenya, with whom we need to maintain a dialogue. Throughout Yearly Meeting there was active and positive participation by the U19s, more so than in previous years, it was felt.

We are challenged to consider how we might work to make GM a more inclusive event and to make it easier for everyone to make their contribution to the community that is GM for Scotland.

And finally - we must not forget the Swarthmore lecture given by our Friend Christine Davis on 'Minding the Future'. More of that at the next GM. May we see you there - it will be worth it!

## How to get to Glasgow Meeting House

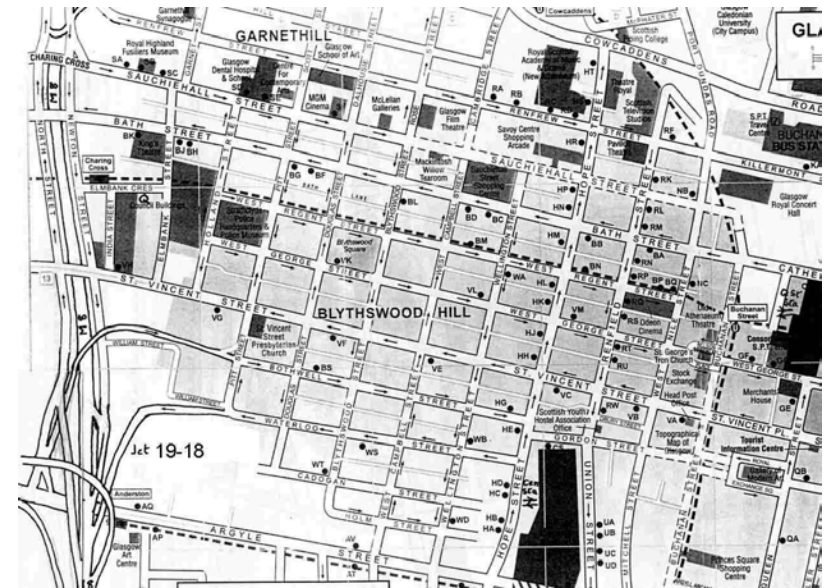
Charing Cross station is on the left of the map, and the Meeting House nearby is marked with a Q.

Trains from the south go to Central Station, at the bottom of the map, and it is a rather uphill walk to get to the FMH. Trains from north and Edinburgh go to Queen Street station, at the right of the map, whence the most convenient transport is a train from the Low Level to Charing Cross. They run every 10 min or so during the day.

By car from the Stirling and the north, you join the M8 westwards through the city centre. Leave it at junction 18 - "Charing Cross", **but this exit is from the right hand lane.** From the right hand lane of the exit road, make for the left hand lane going under the wide arch of the building in front. After the arch, go through one more traffic light, then 1<sup>st</sup> left and park in the multi-storey on the left. The FMH is on the right, marked Q on the map.

By car coming north over the Kingston Bridge, make for Junction 18 - Anderston/ Charing Cross. (2<sup>nd</sup> lane from the left) (If you miss it, don't worry. Take the next exit, turn left and and backtrack till you see the arch, as above.) In Newton Street, keep in the right hand lane and turn right at the next lights, then the first left is Elmbank Street.

By bus from the Buchanan bus station, take the 747 Airport Link from stance 44 and ask for the King's Theatre, on the corner of Elmbank Street. These run on the half-hour. The return journey is from the stop on Sauchiehall Street nearest to Charing Cross. It doesn't say 747 but just stick your hand out - so the driver told me! (16 40, 1709. 1739.)



As you will see on the back page, the feature of next General Meeting is to be the Retreat. One of the papers associated with the triennial report of the Retreat to Meeting for Sufferings was their Statement of Values:

## THE RETREAT - STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND VALUES

15.11.07

### WHAT WE TRY TO DO AND WHY

We aim to improve or maintain the mental health and quality of life of everyone who uses or provides our services, through care of the highest standard and quality. This reflects the tolerance, humanity and spiritual values of our Quaker roots.

We believe that everyone in our community is of equal value as a human.

We listen to, value and respect the experience and contribution of everyone.

We encourage everyone to develop or maintain his or her full potential and well-being.

We try to be excellent in everything we do.

We use honesty and openness to encourage a spirit of enquiry.

We are open-minded about the treatments we use. We use treatments that fit our values and are proved to work. When we try new things we start from what we are good at and check the new approach works.

We work to provide a safe physical and shared social environment for therapy and recovery.

We work to keep the highest standards of professional and personal integrity.

*Mental healthcare: for people not for profit.*

## GENERAL MEETING FOR SCOTLAND

Glasgow 20 Sept 2008 11am until about 4pm

"We seek a gathered stillness in our Meetings for Worship so that all may feel the power of God's love drawing us together and leading us."

Advices and Queries 8

Dear Friends and Attenders throughout Scotland,

Our meeting in September will be in Glasgow Meeting House, just next to Charing Cross underground station.

The special topic for this GM is the work of The Retreat. This is a Quaker residential centre in York which works with the NHS to provide mental health care for people with complex and difficult needs. We appoint one member of their Board of Governors, currently John Melling.

We shall learn about and discuss what makes The Retreat a distinctively Quaker enterprise, how they work and what we can learn from their experience in the field of recovery to mental health. The session will be introduced by Chris Holman, the medical director.

We will also be taking a look at how our GM function groups are working, and how Quakers in Scotland might respond to the Long Term Framework adopted by Yearly Meeting in May.

Please join us in Glasgow, meet new Friends, and uphold our business method.

Robin Waterston, Clerk