



Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)
West Scotland Area Meeting
Scottish charity number SC011234

Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts
Year ending 31 December 2022

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Principal Office:

Glasgow Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, GLASGOW G2 4PS

www.quakerscotland.org/west

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) West Scotland Area Meeting

Scottish charity number SC011234

Trustees' Annual Report for year ending 31 December 2022**Reference and administration details****Office bearers** on date of approval of Trustees Annual Report

Alastair Reid	Clerk	Appointment 01/01/2021
Peter Christy	Assistant Clerk	Appointment 01/01/2021
Wendy Reynolds	Assistant Clerk	Appointment 01/01/2023
Bronwen Currie	Treasurer	Appointment 01/01/2021

Trustees on date of approval of Trustees Annual Report

Peter Christy	Ex-officio	Appointment 01/01/2021
Rob Claxton Ingham		Appointment 01/01/2022
Bronwen Currie	Ex-officio	Appointment 01/01/2021
Tim Denvir		Re-appointment 01/01/2023
Tony Ellis	Clerk	Appointment 01/01/2021
Mary Alice Mansell		Re-appointment 01/01/2022
Peter Morton		Appointment 01/01/2022
Kate Philbrick		Re-appointment 01/01/2022
Gill Reid		Re-appointment 01/01/2023

Trustees who have completed their service Date released

Liz Anderton	End of term	31/12/2022
Wendy Reynolds	Resignation	08/10/2022

Premises

Glasgow Meeting House, 38 Elmbank Crescent, Charing Cross, GLASGOW G2 4PS
 Wigtown Meeting House, Chapel Court, WIGTOWN DG8 9ET

Bankers

Bank of Scotland, 1 Munro Rd, STIRLING FK7 7SY
 Ecology Building Society 7 Belton Rd, Silsden KEIGHLEY BD20 0EE
 CCLA Investment Management Ltd. 80 Cheapside, LONDON EC2V 6DZ
 Triodos Bank UK, Deanery Road, Bristol BS1 5AS
 Local Meetings also hold separate bank accounts.

Solicitors

Harper Macleod LLP Solicitors, The Ca'd'oro, 45 Gordon Street, Glasgow G1 3PE

Independent Examiner

Wylie & Bisset LLP, 168 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4TP

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Structure governance and management

Organisation

West Scotland Area Meeting is the primary administrative unit of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) for west and south-west Scotland and a part of Britain Yearly Meeting, the final constitutional authority for Quakers across Scotland, Wales and England. The members of West Scotland Area Meeting are all those persons currently recorded in the official register that is required by *Quaker Faith and Practice*, the book of discipline of Britain Yearly Meeting. As its name suggests, *Quaker Faith and Practice* is a key resource for Friends that combines Quaker perspectives on matters of faith and spirituality with reflection and guidance on what these mean in practical and organisational terms. It was first issued in manuscript form in 1738 and has been revised at periodic intervals. The most recent edition, the fifth, was published in 2013 and work is currently being undertaken by Britain Yearly Meeting in preparation for the next edition. An online copy is available at <http://www.quakerweb.org.uk/qfp/>.

West Scotland Area Meeting along with the other three Area Meetings in Scotland form the membership of the General Meeting for Scotland, which acts on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting in such procedures as may be required by the Scottish Parliament and Scottish legal affairs.

The constituent local Quaker meetings of West Scotland Area Meeting in 2022 were: Argyll, Arran, Ayrshire, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Dunblane, Glasgow, Islay & Jura, Lanark, Milngavie, Mull & Iona and Wigtown Meeting.

Governing Document

West Scotland Area Meeting has adopted a Governing Document, based on *Quaker Faith & Practice*, which is approved by the Office of the Scottish Charities Regulator (OSCR) and reviewed annually by trustees.

Trustees

Trustees are appointed in accordance with the Governing Document. The names of members are brought forward by the Nominations Committee and appointed by West Scotland Area Meeting in session. Trustees are drawn from a number of our local Quaker meetings

Trustees are directed to the *Governing Document*; *Trustees Terms of Reference*; the *Handbook for Trustees of Quaker Meetings* and the *OSCR Guidance for Charity Trustees*. All of these are available on the internet.

The trustees meet at least six times per year, and are responsible for ensuring compliance with charity law and other relevant legislation. The Annual Report and Accounts of the Area Meeting are approved at a meeting of the trustees and are then presented for acceptance by the Area Meeting in session.

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Structure and governance and management (continued)

General Meeting for Scotland, on behalf of the four Area Meetings in Scotland, subscribes to Thirty-One:Eight for guidance on safeguarding issues. West Scotland Area Meeting subscribes to Glasgow Council for the Voluntary Sector's *Employer's Advice Service* for guidance on employment matters and is a member of the Association of Church Accountants and Treasurers for financial and governance guidance. Trustees attend relevant conferences and training courses to enable them to fulfil their duties.

Objectives and activities

Charitable purpose

The charitable object of West Scotland Area Meeting is the advancement of the religious and charitable purposes of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) in Britain in the area of west Scotland and beyond as laid down in *Quaker Faith and Practice*.

West Scotland Area Meeting supports the spiritual development and religious beliefs of its members and attenders. It enables Quaker meetings for worship to be held within West Scotland. It maintains the Quaker witness and presence within the area. It provides public benefit by its provision of meetings for worship which are open to everyone.

Activities

In normal circumstances regular meetings for worship are held at numerous locations throughout West Scotland. These are advertised locally and details are available nationally through the Britain Yearly Meeting website www.quaker.org.uk and the General Meeting for Scotland website www.quakerscotland.org.

Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs (the business meetings of Area Meeting) are held on seven occasions during the year. Decisions at business meetings are not settled by voting but through long established Quaker process in which those present seek in worship to discern the right way forward with God's guidance. Once the meeting has come to a decision it is recorded in minutes which are approved and signed in the meeting.

Area Meeting owns two properties: the meeting houses in Glasgow and Wigtown. Under normal circumstances these are available for hired use by community and voluntary groups when they are not required for Quaker activities. Co-wardens are employed at Glasgow Meeting to facilitate its use and to provide a Quaker presence in the building.

The meeting fundraises from its members and others for the furtherance of its objectives, the maintenance of its meeting houses and to support the work of the General Meeting for Scotland and the central work of the Society carried out by Britain Yearly Meeting.

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Achievements and performance

2022 brings us one year further on from the major disruption of measures to control the Covid pandemic and, with that, opportunity to begin to see how the life of the Religious Society of Friends across west Scotland is re-settling: what we have learnt, what continues and what is changing. A significant thread which runs through our reflections on the achievements and performance of the Society in 2022 is the work that Quakers are undertaking to understand and embrace change. This includes our approaches to meeting together for worship, reflection or shared support; our organisational structures and our management of the buildings that we own.

Evolving patterns of worship

Shared worship is at the heart of Quaker life. In our meetings for worship we seek to nurture spiritual awareness and understanding by coming together in attentive silence; a silence in which there is also space for any participant to offer a spoken contribution that they feel can help our shared endeavour.

During lockdown, in-person meetings for worship could not take place and Friends were only able to come together virtually using Zoom. This was a new experience for most but, over time, online meetings became more familiar and comfortable to those who participated. Many Friends have come to see them as just as much a meeting for worship as an in-person gathering. Through this experience we have learnt the disciplines that make for an effective online meeting for worship, just as we had done for long-established in-person gatherings. We have also come to recognise that, irrespective of Covid, there can be important benefits in having virtual meetings. They have enabled connection between Friends who live far apart or at a distance from their nearest in-person meeting. They also enable participation from individuals for whom online meeting is their only realistic option, whether for reasons of health and personal mobility or the challenges of travel with its financial and environmental costs. These considerations are especially relevant in those large parts of our area where people are widely scattered and transport options slow and limited.

For a significant number of Friends, however, in-person gatherings continue to hold a depth of meaning and spiritual companionship which cannot be matched by anything virtual. Now that physical meetings are again possible, many would choose to meet with others in-person over any gathering by Zoom. For some this is felt more strongly as a matter of principle such that they would not join any meeting online including, in some cases, any blended physical meeting where technology is used to include online participation. We also recognise that technology can present its own barriers to individuals whether this is about how comfortable they are with computer equipment, fatigue with online working, cost or the uncertainty of internet connection.

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Achievements and performance (cont.)

We have taken the opportunity of the 2022 annual report to gather information about how different meetings in our Area are engaging with the range of perspectives just described and the patterns of worship that they are settling into as we move beyond the pandemic. During the coming year, this information will be a source of reflection for the meeting of elders who have responsibility for the spiritual well-being and growth of our Society. Responses from local meetings show that there are four broad approaches being adopted by Friends:

- **In-person meetings only** (e.g. Dumfries, Wigtown) Friends in these meetings have mostly felt relieved to be able to move away from gathering online and value the return to worship in-person. In their experience, the life and witness of the meeting continue to be well served by established patterns of Quaker worship. In the words of one response,

“Over the course of 2022 we have benefitted from an increase of four new attenders some of whom arrive each week while others attend more sporadically. We are now in regular face-to-face meetings... on a Sunday morning. There is no appetite for developing zoom as a blended form of meeting and (with) a hired venue we have not invested in equipment to do so.”

- **Online meetings only** (e.g. Sunday Evening Meeting, Friends Fellowship of Healing) These meetings were formed during the pandemic with a deliberate reach across the whole of our Area and openness to Quakers elsewhere which can only be achieved online. They have their own distinctive energy and sense of community whilst attracting Friends who are often also part of a geographically local meeting. To quote from the Sunday Evening Meeting response,

“Sunday Evening Meeting continues to meet the needs of a range of Friends who have a link to the Area Meeting, geographically including the islands of the Inner Hebrides and as far south as Portsmouth and France. It also provides a worship time for those who are unable to get to their own Meeting for Worship or have access difficulties... or who wish to join with others across the Area Meeting rather than only in their own Local Meeting.”

- **In-person and online meetings** (e.g. Argyll, Arran, Mull & Iona, Islay & Jura, Castle Douglas) For several local groups it makes sense to plan for both in-person and online meetings. In our rural meetings, travelling distances mean that attendance in-person is only practicable for some and online alternatives are needed for Friends who would otherwise not be able to join a meeting for worship. These local meetings also have established patterns of coming together in joint online worship, enabling those in small local groups to be enriched by larger gatherings. The report from Arran illustrates what this can mean in practice for Friends

“The small group of Arran Quakers meets twice monthly in person, on the first Sunday of the month at the home of one of our older members and the third Sunday in the lovely former Arran Banner newspaper offices in Brodick... We have also benefited greatly from renewed links with Friends in Mull and Iona, Argyll and Glasgow, through being able to participate in online meetings for worship.”

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Achievements and performance (cont.)

Castle Douglas Friends have established a pattern of two meetings each week: in-person on Sunday and online mid-week. This enables the meeting to be inclusive of the range of perspectives and needs of Friends discussed at the beginning of this section. It also reflects practical obstacles to holding a blended meeting in the room currently rented for the Sunday meeting.

- **Blended meetings that are both in-person and online** (e.g. Ayrshire, Dunblane, Lanark, Glasgow, Milngavie) A number of meetings are equipped to enable in-person meetings to include those online. This enables Friends to come together in a single blended meeting for worship, albeit in different modes of attendance, that seeks to be inclusive of the different needs and circumstances of Friends. In some cases blended meetings are part of a wider mix in which there are also exclusively in-person or online meetings. What this means in practical terms is illustrated by the example of one of our local meetings,

“ We are fortunate that we have about 6 people online, and a similar or greater number in the room. This means that in the after meeting time, when people tend to break into small groups to chat in person, there is a similar online group to meet . . . We have had a new attender join online, grateful that she can attend online as she lives remotely. . . A long standing couple have told us that they can no longer attend in person due to financial constraints. We are aware of some who don't have access to the online offering, and others who prefer to meet in person, as well as those who find the opportunity to meet online gives them access to Quakers that they wouldn't otherwise have.”

Meetings that have adopted a blended approach recognise that it is not without drawbacks. Some are particularly mindful of those Friends who feel unable to join a blended meeting because they find technology standing in the way of worship and meetings continue to reflect on how these Friends can be included. There is also recognition that the suitability of the meeting room and quality of equipment have a significant impact on how well blended meetings work both for those physically present and those attending virtually. Glasgow meeting house was equipped with the help of Area Meeting funds in 2021 and Dunblane Friends report benefits from an upgrading in 2022. Ayrshire meeting is currently renting accommodation that is already well equipped for blended meetings although its physical location is less accessible and alternatives are being sought. Area Meeting continues to hold funds to support local meetings so that those who opt for blended meetings can equip themselves adequately.



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Achievements and performance (cont.)

Spiritual Development and Learning

Within the gathered silence of meeting for worship, Friends are nurtured by spoken ministry which, in many local meetings, includes readings from the *Advices and Queries* section of *Quaker Faith and Practice*. There is also a variety of study and discussion groups across the Area and, as with meetings for worship, these are now offered in a range of in-person, online or blended modes. The pattern at Dumfries, for example, is for a fortnightly in-person discussion following meeting for worship whilst the online Sunday Evening Meeting has recently established discussions once a month which have looked at topics suggested by group members. Glasgow meeting offers a wide range of, mostly

blended, meetings in addition to its Sunday worship. These include a mid-week meeting for worship and opportunity for spiritual exploration or guided meditation in such groups as *Time for Stillness*, *Deepening Spirituality* and *Experiment with Light*. *Young Friends Epilogue*, which began during the pandemic, is now established as a blended space dedicated to sharing and spiritual growth for younger Friends.

With more Friends familiar with virtual meetings there has also been imaginative use of opportunities for online learning from Woodbrooke, the Quaker study centre. Friends from several local meetings joined the *Exploring Quaker Spirituality* course, following this up each week with local online discussion, whilst Ayrshire meeting funded a Woodbrooke Where You Are course on *Worship, Ministry and Afterwords* which both promoted valuable discussion and helped Friends to know each other better. Online study sessions were also held by West Scotland Friends in connection with the annual Swarthmore lecture which in 2022 explored how we might move on from assumptions of white supremacy. The lecture was given by Helen Minnis, a Glasgow Friend, and itself grew out of work on issues of equality that she has undertaken in company with Glasgow Friends and others from West Scotland Area Meeting. Learning with the wider UK community of Friends has also been a feature of Quaker Yearly Meeting which, in 2022, continued to be accessible online. This enabled the participation of Friends from West Scotland who benefitted from the wealth of opportunities for reflection, spiritual development and learning and from the sharing of experience with so many others.

A number of meetings such as Glasgow and Dumfries maintain strong inter-faith links and many are actively engaged ecumenically, as for example in Wigtown where Friends join periodic ecumenical worship, contribute to the Easter newsletter and take their turn with other denominations in leading spiritual reflection at the weekly *Ninian Moment*.

Opportunities for children and teenagers to learn and grow as Quakers are provided by Glasgow meeting. Facilities for children are provided every Sunday in the meeting house with varied activities including creative play, storytelling and exploration of themes related to being a Quaker such as community-building, cherishing the planet, the meaning of friendship, experience of family and peace at the heart of life. This attracts regular attenders, as well as children of visiting families, up to 10 years old. For those ranging in age from 10-17, contact is maintained through a WhatsApp group with occasional in-person meetings on Sunday afternoon including, in 2022, two memorable meetings with Helen Minnis as part of her preparation for the Swarthmore lecture.

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Achievements and performance (cont.)

Elsewhere in West Scotland, Dunblane has kept in touch with its young members though not held meetings for them during the year, and other meetings, whilst not finding a need for a children's meeting, are usually able to welcome children if circumstances arise. In all cases those leading work with children and young people are PVG registered.

There is positive encouragement, supported by funding from Area Meeting, for teenagers and young people from West Scotland to benefit from wider opportunities provided by Quakers in the UK. This includes participation in Junior Yearly Meeting and significant involvement in Summer Shindig. The benefits of this annual residential event are captured in the report of one participant who writes,

"We continue to value time to be with other like-minded young people to explore our values, to practice our Quaker faith and to live adventurously. Shindig is an important landmark for us and we would welcome more opportunities to gather and be together in community."

Social Witness, Sustainability and Engagement

Friends' testimonies to peace, justice, equality, truth and integrity and to the environment lead members and attenders from all parts of the Area to witness to their beliefs. This extends from the work of our Local and Area Meetings themselves, including in partnership with other churches and community groups, to the actions of individual Friends, many of whom live-out their Quaker values through participation in non-Quaker groups and activities. Examples of these varied forms of witness include the involvement of individual Friends from different local meetings in such groups as the Northern Friends Peace Board, Roots of Resistance or the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network and in voluntary work with food banks, litter picking or environmental improvement. Friends also continue regular meetings for worship in witness to our peace testimony outside the military base at Faslane and Dunblane continues as a Sanctuary Meeting committed to promoting a culture of welcome for those seeking sanctuary. In Glasgow, Quaker social witness finds particular expression through its city centre meeting house where use by vulnerable groups is encouraged as are lettings to organisations that are active in social issues for which Friends have a concern. Most local meetings also hold special collections as a matter of routine to support charitable causes agreed by the meeting.

Quaker testimonies include clear commitment to the environment and climate justice. Many individual Friends strive to reduce their carbon footprint by reducing car use and plane travel and by practising simplicity in their purchases and eating habits. Greater provision for online participation also brings the benefit of reduced environmental damage through less travel. All but two local meetings use rented premises and we seek to encourage sustainability in so far as we can in these circumstances. The Meeting House at Wigtown is relatively new and well insulated whilst improvement to the energy efficiency of Glasgow Meeting House will be a key element in plans for the building that are currently in formulation.

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Achievements and performance (cont.)

During 2022, Area Meeting continued progress with two particular concerns through special interest groups, one on Race and Privilege in Our Society and the other focussing on Gender-based Violence. Both groups have been active in exploring their concern and in providing resources for others to become engaged and informed. The Race and Privilege group has played a particularly valuable role in the lead up to the Swarthmore lecture and in follow-up discussion. Meetings of Area Meeting routinely allocate significant time for shared reflection on chosen topics. During the January meeting there was discussion of what it means today to be a Quaker, the March meeting further explored issues of race and privilege whilst in October there was sharing of experience from the new worship and spiritual development groups that have grown up within Area Meeting.

West Scotland Area Meeting has continued to contribute, through its annual giving to General Meeting for Scotland, to the employment in Scotland of a Parliamentary Engagement Officer to help strengthen our advocacy role in public life. This work is

supported in Scotland by a Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, and our representative has given us regular reports on its activities.

Quaker Community

Our shared community and mutual support for one another as Friends is an important dimension of the Society. Over the years, meetings have sustained this in a variety of ways whether in the informal blether over tea following each meeting for worship, shared meals or other social events, including those at Area Meeting or in clusters of local meetings. With the lifting of Covid restrictions, such activities have become possible again in-person. However, we now find in most meetings that a significant proportion of Friends are participating virtually and we recognise the need for us to find positive ways of ensuring that our communities are sustained in these new circumstances and can grow together rather than become fragmented.

Examples of the different approaches taken across West Scotland include the provision of online as well as in-person space for sharing and conversation after blended meetings for worship, time for sharing as a routine part of meetings that only gather virtually, online and blended groups for discussion and spiritual development that bring Friends closer



together from across the area. Meetings are also resourceful in organising events that help to build Quaker community. The annual West Coast Friends Gathering at Crianlarich Youth Hostel is an established example which continues to benefit our western groups of meetings and Friends in the three southern meetings have begun to explore the possibility of regular shared meetings for worship. Lanark Friends greatly appreciated the opportunity to join with those from south east Scotland area meeting who were holding a residential

gathering nearby and regular book clubs or walking groups are organised by several meetings.

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Achievements and performance (cont.)

All meetings have one or more Friend who is designated to ensure that there is pastoral care and support for members of the meeting. This too is something that is evolving, not only with the mix of in-person and online participation but in our thinking about how we support each other most effectively in ways that are inclusive and avoid seeming hierarchical. Quakers across the UK are looking to re-frame our understanding and ways of speaking about caring roles and Friends in West Scotland play an active part in this, whether in our exploration of how best to support Friends who attend online or in the work of Glasgow meeting to envisage new models in which care and support is shared and mutual across the meeting rather than part of a designated role.

Members, Attenders and Enquirers

At the end of 2022 there were 228 members in West Scotland Area Meeting plus a further 217 people not in membership who attended on a regular basis; occasional visitor numbers are not recorded. The number in formal membership is the same as in the

previous year and includes 5 new members (2 by application and 3 by transfer from different area meetings) and 5 leaving membership (3 resignations, 1 termination through loss of contact and 1 death). The number of attenders in 2022 has increased from the previous year by 2. One marriage was held under Friends' auspices in 2022.

Friends continue to welcome visitors and enquirers. In November an enquirers day was organised in blended mode which provided opportunity for people interested in the Society to meet with Friends and learn more about Quakers. Local meetings have also sought to be visible in, for example, community advertising, provision of a Quaker stall at events or in the participation of Glasgow meeting house in Doors Open Day which provided opportunity for visitors to see an exhibition of the Loving Earth panels and talk with Friends.

Quaker Owned Buildings

One key element of the future plans outlined at the end of the 2021 annual report was to look seriously at options for Glasgow meeting house. This has received considerable and careful attention during 2022 through a process of discernment involving Glasgow Local Meeting, Area Meeting and Trustees with briefings on practical considerations and space for shared reflection. Trustees supported this process by setting out three concerns for Friends to reflect on in weighing options: (1) impact on the spiritual life and well-being of Friends; (2) financial realism and sustainability; (3) whether premises themselves embody Quaker values (e.g. in such things as equal accessibility or energy efficiency). The outcome of this careful process is that Friends wish to remain in the building, at least for the next 10 years or unless circumstances radically change, and agree that the next step is development of a vision for future use of the building backed up by a strategic plan demonstrating how this vision can be achieved sustainably.



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Achievements and performance (cont.)

This decision is a significant step, following a number of years of uncertainty in which Friends have held different perspectives on whether or not Quaker life and witness in Glasgow is best served by remaining in the current building. Although these differences remain there is now a shared discernment from which to move forward. A strategy group has been set up to report to Area Meeting in early 2023. This has engaged in consultation with Friends to develop a vision of how the building could better serve the witness of Quakers whilst being financially sustainable and identified key areas around accessibility and energy performance that need to be incorporated into a development plan.

Over recent years it has become clear that the roof of Glasgow meeting house is in significant need of repair. Consultation with those with professional knowledge indicated that re-roofing rather than localised mending would be the best long term solution. This was considered by trustees, informed by the work of Glasgow property committee, and a decision taken to recommend re-roofing which was, in turn, accepted by Area Meeting. A careful process of procurement followed and work on re-roofing began before the end of 2022 with completion due in early 2023.



It was recognised, in making this decision, that it did not depend on the future use of the meeting house: re-roofing would secure the fabric for our use if Quakers remained or maintain the financial asset of the building were we to sell.

In very different circumstances, Friends at Wigtown have come to a clear, shared decision to relinquish the meeting house and follow the pattern of other meetings in hiring rented accommodation for meetings for worship. This has been supported by trustees and Area Meeting and the property went on the market at the end of 2022 with good prospects of an early sale in 2023. In making this move, Wigtown Friends feel that the energies of their small group can be better focused on Quaker life and witness and also hope that the building, which has been less well used since Covid, will be of greater benefit in the ownership of others.

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Achievements and performance (cont.)

Structures and Governance

In the conduct of our life as a Religious Society, practical and spiritual matters are seen as interwoven. This is reflected in the title of our business meetings as Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs; in our agendas which include ethical, social and religious concerns alongside practical questions and in the expectation of engagement from members and attenders.

During 2022, there were 7 meetings of our Area business meeting and 7 trustees meetings. All trustees' meetings took place by Zoom whilst Area Meetings were either blended or online. This has enabled good levels of attendance both in terms of numbers and representation across the Area. Online meetings have also facilitated the participation of West Scotland Friends in Scotland General Meeting and Britain Yearly Meeting. Ensuring that Quaker discipline is adequately maintained throughout the Area remains

important for us and all local meetings periodically held their own Meetings for Worship for Church Affairs during the course of the year.

As Quakers continue to evolve with changing circumstances we have reflected on our structures to ensure that they serve us well. In this context, the small Islay and Jura meeting has decided to continue without formal designation as a local meeting and we are looking at how our structures work for the new online meetings that are emerging. Friends in the south are beginning to explore greater sharing across the three meetings, as has happened for many years in the west. On a larger scale, West Scotland Friends have been active in a process set up by Scotland General Meeting to look at the possibility of simpler, more shared organisational structures for Quakers across Scotland. This work will be the basis for reflection and planning in 2023.

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Financial review

With the lessening of the concern around Covid, room hire in Glasgow Meeting House picked up during 2022, at least until the commencement of structural repairs (see below) towards the end of the year, and income from such lettings reached £10,865 – more than double the sum taken in 2021. However, the developing use of video-conferencing, combined with Friends' concern for the environment and desire not to travel unnecessarily, has meant that spending on travel to conferences and training events remained well below budget. With Friends continuing to give generously, this meant that we ended the year with general funds exceeding our reserves policy by around £9,000, even after £5,000 was transferred to building reserves. Given the uncertainty about costs relating to Glasgow Meeting House however, trustees decided to postpone until early 2023 a decision about how best to use this excess.

In the process of discernment about the future of Glasgow Meeting House (GMH) and a careful and thorough tendering process, trustees agreed in September to the re-roofing of GMH. As a result, substantial donations were received from a number of Glasgow Friends, totalling just over £66,000. The provenance of these sums was checked and documented by the treasurer, who also established that they might be used for the roof or any further development work. These sums now form a restricted fund as part of the overall Glasgow Meeting House Development Fund, the rest of which is a designated fund consisting of legacies received in recent years.

We also continue to benefit from legacy funds designated for the spiritual life of the Area Meeting and of individual Friends, and we were pleased to support a number of Friends, including younger Friends going for the first time, to attend Britain Yearly Meeting in London.

West Scotland Area Meeting was able to continue to provide financial support to the national structure of the Religious Society of Friends in the United Kingdom and in Scotland. The quota payment based on numbers of members, which we make to General Meeting for Scotland, rose to £4,197 and forms our share of the support given to the paid posts of Parliamentary Engagement Officer and Local Development Worker. The Area Meeting continued to receive individual contributions for Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM), totalling £26,413 inclusive of relevant Gift Aid, which was sent on along with a donation of £6,000, making a total of £32,413. In addition, Arran, Ayrshire, Islay & Jura, Lanark, Mull & Iona and Wigtown Quaker Meetings, together with a number of individual Friends, made direct donations to BYM, giving a total amount given to support the central work of the Society of £34,261, an average contribution of £152 per member (£168 in 2021). In the light of excess general AM funds (see above) it is likely that a further donation to BYM, over and above that budgeted, will be made early in 2023.

Reserves Policy

The established policy is that Area Meeting holds the equivalent of four months annual expenditure and that each local meeting holds up to one year's annual expenditure in the general reserves. There are also designated building reserves held by Area Meeting and the relevant local meetings, currently standing at £75,070: £36,564 held by Area Meeting; £27,956 by Glasgow Meeting and £10,550 by Wigtown Meeting. In addition, Glasgow Meeting designated £12,000 of their funds as employment reserves.

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Plans for Future

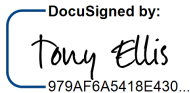
The priority for West Scotland Area Meeting is to maintain and support its worshipping communities in west Scotland, to enable our continued and active witness to Quaker testimonies and concerns and to increase the profile of Quakerism within this area. In the coming year it is expected that particular attention will be given to:

- continued reflection and planning on how Friends can best build on the digital opportunities that have been experienced through the Covid pandemic to create a more blended, inclusive and environmentally responsible future;
- work, with Friends across Scotland, to consider whether simpler structures may serve us better and to continue to draw positively on the benefits of Scotland's dedicated Local Development Worker;
- detailed planning to ensure a sustainable future for Glasgow meeting house that effectively serves the life and witness of Quakers.

Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees:

Signed: 979AF6A5418E430...

Tony Ellis
Clerk of Trustees

Date: 15 May 2023

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) West Scotland Area Meeting

Scottish charity number SC011234

Independent Examiners Report for year ending 31 December 2022

I report on the accounts of the charity for the year ended 31 December 2022, which are set out on pages 16 to 23.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The charity's trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the terms of the Charities and Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006.

The charity trustees consider that the audit requirement of Regulation 10(1) (d) of the Accounts Regulations does not apply. It is my responsibility to examine the accounts as required under section 44(1) (c) of the Act and to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination is carried out in accordance with Regulation 11 of the Charities Accounts (Scotland) Regulations 2006. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeks explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In the course of my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

1. which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements:

- to keep accounting records in accordance with Section 44(1) (a) of the 2005 Act and Regulation 4 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations, and
- to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and comply with Regulation 8 of the 2006 Accounts Regulations

have not been met, or

2. to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

DocuSigned by:



Catherine Livingstone, BA (Hons) CA

Wylie & Bisset LLP

168 Bath Street

Glasgow

G2 4TP

Date: 15 May 2023

Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) West Scotland Area Meeting

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Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2022**Statement of Receipts and Payments**

		Unrestricted Funds	Restricted funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	Notes	£	£	£	£
Receipts					
Contributions		26,198	130,325	156,523	92,103
Legacies		-	-	-	501
Grants		-	-	-	4,593
Hiring receipts		-	10,865	10,865	4,578
Bank interest		1,237	1,094	2,331	1,667
Receipts from Quaker activities		1,490	355	1,845	4,089
Other receipts		-	-	-	3,758
Total Receipts		28,925	142,639	171,564	111,289
Payments					
Hiring costs	3	-	20,306	20,306	10,531
Cost of Quaker activities	4	10,535	29,828	40,363	51,300
Grants & donations	5	14,597	30,014	44,611	39,133
Governance costs	6	762	-	762	809
Examination	6	1,080	-	1,080	1,008
Bank charges		-	8	8	9
Total payments		26,974	80,156	107,130	102,790
Net receipts		1,951	62,483	64,434	8,499
Transfers to/(from) funds	7	527	(527)	-	-
Surplus for the year		2,478	61,956	64,434	8,499

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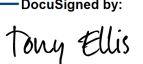
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Financial Statements for year ending 31 December 2022 (cont.)

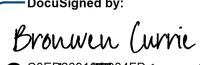
Statement of Balances

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£
Cash funds				
Cash & bank balance at start of year	141,170	117,146	258,316	249,817
Surplus for the year	2,478	61,956	64,434	8,499
Cash and bank balance at end of year	143,648	179,102	322,750	258,316
Cash and bank balances				
Current accounts	40,346	67,296	107,642	40,853
Deposit accounts	103,302	111,762	215,064	217,332
Cash in hand	-	44	44	131
Cash and bank balance at end of year	143,648	179,102	322,750	258,316
Funds				
General funds (AM and LM)	18,232	51,681	69,913	68,912
Building reserves (AM and LM)	36,564	38,506	75,070	71,734
Glasgow Employment reserve	-	12,000	12,000	12,000
Designated funds (AM and LM)	88,852	4,608	93,460	97,430
AM restricted funds	-	67,927	67,927	3,750
LM restricted funds	-	4,380	4,380	4,490
	143,648	179,102	322,750	258,316
Other assets				
HMRC refund due			1,632	1,632
Glasgow Meeting House	<i>Revalued 2015</i>		300,000	300,000
Wigtown Meeting House	<i>Agreed sale price January 2023</i>		65,000	78,820
Liabilities				
Examination fee ~ Wylie & Bisset			1,224	1,086

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees;

Signed 
 Tony Ellis (Clerk of Trustees)

Date: 15 May 2023

Signed 
 Bronwen Currie (Trustee & Treasurer)

Date: 15 May 2023

Accepted by West Scotland Area Meeting;

Signed 
 Alastair Reid, Clerk of Area Meeting

Date: 15 May 2023

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Notes to the Accounts for year ending 31 December 2022

- 1 **Basis of accounts** These accounts have been prepared on the Receipts & Payments basis in accordance with the Charities & Trustee Investment (Scotland) Act 2005 and the Charities Accounts (Scotland) regulations 2006 (as amended).

- 2 **Nature and purpose of funds**

Area Meeting General Funds ~ these are unrestricted funds available for general use by the Area Meeting.

Designated funds ~ These are unrestricted funds designated for a particular purpose by the Area Meeting. These are:

 - Building fund ~ to cover major work on the buildings
 - Disability fund ~ to costs associated to ensuring accessibility
 - Organ/Giles fund ~ to support the spiritual life of the Meeting
 - Glasgow Meeting House Development fund (GMHDF) ~ to support the future development of the meeting house

Area Meeting Restricted funds ~ These are funds where the donor has specified the use of the funds. One of these is the Pastoral Care Fund of which £1,800 remained at the end of the year.

In the light of agreed work to replace the roof of Glasgow Meeting House, substantial donations were received from a number of Friends towards the end of 2022. These donations now constitute a further restricted fund within the overall category of GMHDF.

The Area Meeting collects Scheduled Contributions and passes them on (along with relevant Gift Aid receipts) to the Local Quaker Meetings and Britain Yearly Meeting as specified by the donor.

Local Meeting funds ~ these are recorded as Restricted funds within the Area Meeting accounts, the funds having been given specifically for these areas of work (Local Meeting activities).

Glasgow Meeting holds four restricted funds. The Spiritual Renewal Fund is used to promote and provide activities to strengthen the spiritual life of the meeting (£1,387), the Social fund is used to support community and family activities to strengthen the community of Glasgow Meeting (£199), the Glasgow Friends Against Homelessness fund is used to support the Homeless Tea Run (£2,509) and the Camfield Trust Fund to be used towards travel (£285).

- 3 **Hiring Costs** With an increase in room lettings post-Covid, and an increased use of volunteer Friends to warden Quaker activities, the proportion of staff and support costs allocated to fundraising was increased to 70% in 2022.

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- 4 Quaker activities** This includes: insurance (£3,117), room hire for meetings for worship; conferences and gatherings, training and travel expenses; and a proportion (30%) of the employment and other support costs for Glasgow Meeting House (see 3 above).
The year began with 1 p/t warden and 1 cleaner working for 6 hours per week. Two deutes (on zero-hours contracts) and a p/t assistant warden were recruited during the year in order to cope with the increased lettings. Following the departure of the previous warden, a Centre Co-ordinator was appointed in December on 18 hours per week in the hope that she will be able to generate more lettings business. Thus the staffing complement at the end of the year was 5: 3 p/t on fixed-hours contracts and 2 deutes on zero-hours contracts.
- 5 Grants and donations** Grants are given to other bodies in accordance with the governing document to further the work and witness of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers).
Grants from Unrestricted Funds represent donations made by Area Meeting on the basis of an agreed budget. The restricted funds for BYM represent money collected for BYM and passed on by Area Meeting. Grants and donations given by Local Meetings (Restricted Funds) ranged from £40 to £386.

Breakdown of grants	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Total 2022	Total 2021
Britain Yearly Meeting	6,000	26,413	32 413	32,285
General Meeting for Scotland	4,197	-	4 197	2,104
Northern Friends Peace Board	2,100	-	2 100	2,034
Northern Friends Youth Events Trust	1,200	-	1 200	-
Quaker Council for European Affairs	300	40	340	360
Friends World Committee for Consultation	500	-	500	500
Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre	-	200	200	100
Quaker Disability Group	-	100	100	100
Stirling Start Up	-	100	100	100
Stirling Interfaith Community Justice Group	-	100	100	100
Forth Valley Welcome	-	100	100	100
Emmaus	-	200	200	200
Peace & Justice Award	-	100	100	-
Foodbanks	-	386	386	-
Bursaries, Personal Needs & Pastoral Care	300	1,950	2 250	330
Other small grants (less than £100)	-	50	50	20
Quaker Meeting House Appeals	-	275	275	375
Quaker Tapestry	-	-	-	125
Medical Aid for Palestinians	-	-	-	300
Total	14 597	30 014	44 611	39,133

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Notes to the Accounts for year ending 31 December 2022 (cont.)

- 6 Governance** This includes subscriptions to advisory organisations (31:8, GCVS Employment Advisory and Health & Safety Services) and legal expenses.
- No remuneration was paid to any charity trustee or person connected to a trustee (2021: None).
- No trustee expenses were claimed in 2022 (2021: None).
- 7 Transfers** Transfers took place between three Local Meetings early in the year to rectify misallocated donations. In addition, two Local Meetings transferred a total of £567 to Area Meeting funds.

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Breakdown of Unrestricted funds 2022

	General Fund	Building	Designated Funds Disability	Organ/ Giles	GMHD	Total 2022	Total 2021
Receipts							
Contributions	26,198	-	-	-	-	26,198	24,895
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	501
Bank interest	858	-	-	-	379	1,237	784
Receipts from Quaker activities	1,490	-	-	-	-	1,490	253
Sub total	28,546	-	-	-	379	28,925	26,433
Payments							
Cost of Quaker activities	6,393	1,436	900	1,806	-	10,535	7,184
Grants & donations	14,597	-	-	-	-	14,597	15,188
Governance costs	762	-	-	-	-	762	809
Examination	1,080	-	-	-	-	1,080	1,008
Sub total	22,832	1,436	900	1,806	-	26,974	24,189
Net receipts / (payments)	5,714	(1,436)	(900)	(1,806)	379	1,951	2,244
Net transfers from AM funds	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Net transfers to AM funds	527	-	-	-	-	527	-
Net transfers between AM funds	(5,000)	5,000	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers	(4,473)	5,000	-	-	-	527	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,241	3,564	(900)	(1,806)	379	2,478	2,244
Cash funds							
Cash & bank balance at start of year	16,991	33,000	1,640	33,449	56,090	141,170	138,926
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	1,241	3,564	(900)	(1,806)	379	2,478	2,244
Cash & bank balance at end of year	18,232	36,564	740	31,643	56,469	143,648	141,170
Bank & cash balances							
Current account	10,346	30,000	-	-	-	40,346	11,055
Deposit account	7,886	6,564	740	31,643	56,469	103,302	130,115
	18,232	36,564	740	31,643	56,469	143,648	141,170

Breakdown of Restricted funds 2022

	AM	Argyll	Arran	Ayrshire	Castle Douglas	Dumfries	Dunblane	Glasgow	Islay & Jura*	Lanark	M'gavie	Mull & Iona	Wigtown	Total 2022	Total 2021
	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£	£
Receipts															
Contributions	91,040	456	362	1,821	1,693	1,417	2,538	27,764	162	1,416	455	535	666	130,325	67,208
Legacies	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Grants	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8,351
Hiring receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10,865	-	-	-	-	-	10,865	4,578
Bank interest	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	933	-	-	-	-	161	1,094	883
Receipts from Quaker activities	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	355	-	-	-	-	-	355	3,836
Other receipts	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	91,040	456	362	1,821	1,693	1,417	2,538	39,917	162	1,416	455	535	827	142,639	84,856
Payments															
Hiring costs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20,306	-	-	-	-	-	20,306	10,531
Cost of Quaker activities	-	160	188	879	1,843	1,696	3,589	19,064	100	945	671	168	525	29,828	44,116
Grants & donations	26,863	200	350	400	-	300	440	250	100	-	586	500	25	30,014	23,945
Bank charges	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	8	8	9
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	26,863	360	538	1,279	1,843	1,996	4,029	39,620	200	945	1,257	668	558	80,156	78,601
Surplus/(deficit) before transfers	64,177	96	(176)	542	(150)	(579)	(1,491)	297	(38)	471	(802)	(133)	269	62,483	6,255
Net transfers to/from AM funds	-	-	-	(250)	-	-	-	-	(277)	-	-	-	-	(527)	-
Net transfers between LM funds	-	-	-	220	-	-	(300)	80	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Gross transfers	-	-	-	(30)	-	-	(300)	80	(277)	-	-	-	-	(527)	-
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	64,177	96	(176)	512	(150)	(579)	(1,791)	377	(315)	471	(802)	(133)	269	61,956	6,255
Cash funds															
Cash & bank balance at start of year	3,750	14	254	567	1,275	1,627	5,771	87,097	315	514	1002	956	14,004	117,146	110,891
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	64,177	96	(176)	512	(150)	(579)	(1,791)	377	(315)	471	(802)	(133)	269	61,956	6,255
Cash & bank balance at end of year	67,927	110	78	1,079	1,125	1,048	3,980	87,474	-	985	200	823	14,273	179,102	117,146

Breakdown of Restricted funds 2022 (Continued)

	AM	Argyll	Arran	Ayrshire	Castle Douglas	Dumfries	Dunblane	Glasgow	Islay & Jura*	Lanark	Milngavie	Mull & Iona	Wigtown	Total 2022	<i>Total 2021</i>
Bank & cash balances															
Current account	36,127	110	78	1,079	526	1,048	3,980	21,222	-	985	200	823	1,118	67,296	29,798
Deposit account	31,800	-	-	-	599	-	-	66,252	-	-	-	-	13,111	111,762	87,217
Cash in hand	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	44	44	131
Cash & bank balance at end of year	67,927	110		1,079	1,125	1,048	3,980	87,474	-	985	200	823	14,273	179,102	117,146
Held as															
General funds	-	110	78	1,079	1,125	1,048	3,980	38,530	-	985	200	823	3,723	51,681	51,922
Building reserves	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	27,956	-	-	-	-	10,550	38,506	38,734
Employment reserve	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	-	-	-	-	-	12,000	12,000
Designated (other)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,608	-	-	-	-	-	4,608	6,250
Restricted funds	67,927	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,380	-	-	-	-	-	72,307	8,240
	67,927	110	78	1,079	1,125	1,048	3,980	87,474	-	985	200	823	14,273	179,102	117,146

* Account closed 13/12/22