

**Portobello and Musselburgh Local Meeting of The Religious  
Society of Friends (Quakers)  
Meeting for Worship with attention to business.  
Bellfield, 24th November 2024**

**MINUTES**

**2024/11/01 Attendance worship, reading, minutes of the last meeting**

Friends attending: Sarah Martin (co-clerk), Marian Willoner (co-clerk), Robin Liebmann (co-clerk), Ian Edwards (elder), Cathy Holman, Alastair Cameron, Emma Milton, Jen Shepherd, Wade Robertson, Chris Holman, Ross Campbell, Tali Brown, Carolyn Urquhart, Mary Jane Elton

Prevented: Tessa Thomas-Pyne

In the opening silence Ian read On Children by Kahlil Gibran ~

Your children are not your children. T  
They are the sons and daughters of Life's longing for itself.  
They come through you but not from you,  
And though they are with you yet they belong not to you.  
You may give them your love but not your thoughts,  
For they have their own thoughts.  
You may house their bodies but not their souls,  
For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.  
You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make them like you.  
For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday.  
You are the bows from which your children as living arrows are sent forth.  
The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite, and He bends you with His might that His  
arrows may go swift and far.  
Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness; For even as He loves the arrow that flies,  
so He loves also the bow that is stable.

Ian is the appointed elder for this meeting for business.

Minutes of our meeting on Sunday 25th August have been circulated, signed and placed in the minute book.

Sarah Martin spoke reminding us of Quaker business method. She read from advices and queries 14 and Quaker Faith and Practice 2.89, 2.88 and 3.06.

**2024/11/02 Matters arising**

**i) Causes to support (2024/08/02)**

We were initially unable to find a local Palestinian cause to donate to that could receive money. However, we then received a newsletter from Kairos Palestine. This includes three possible causes to support.

Alastair Cameron has given the matter consideration and his recommendation is that we support MA'AN Development Center because it fits with our ethos - locally established and controlled, a clear strategy programme, and on-the-ground impact.

We would like to support the MA' AN Development Center, providing we can get money to them.

**ii) Developing a relationship with Chris Murray MP (2024/08/03)**

Alastair Cameron has written on our behalf to Chris Murray MP, seeking to explore with him issues of mutual concern. Mary Woodward and Jane (check surname) have expressed interest in joining in this work. A reply is awaited.

**iii) Hearing accessibility (2024/05/02)**

Feedback from some members/attenders is that the acoustic mats do help, especially with the two of them in use. We are considering more steps in what will probably be an ongoing process of improvement. It is complicated by the fact that hearing aid users and non hearing aid users will be assisted by different interventions.

Carolyn is going to do more research on what assistive technology might be appropriate and how much it would cost and bring this to a subsequent Business Meeting.

For the next two steps, we considered:

a) a "tuning in phrase" when ministering i.e. a few words for anyone with hearing loss to tune in to the individual speaker before they start their ministry, along the lines of "I am moved to minister today - pause - start"

b) subject to Bellfield's approval, some fabric panelling on the non-window wall of the small hall for sound absorption.

We would like to introduce the idea of a "tuning in phrase" - of the ministering individual's choice - in the December newsletter and in notices.

We would like to cooperate with Bellfield in looking at the possibility of fabric panels. Clerks will liaise with Bellfield to see how we can support their work on this.

We thank Carolyn for her work on this.

#### **2024/11/03 Children and Young People**

Ian Edwards (co-ordinator for children and young people) spoke. We are blessed as a Meeting to have children and young people in Meeting. We appreciate the work that goes into supporting their meetings. It is a joy to be involved with our children and young people. However, Ian notes that we need to bring more people together to support this work. He emphasised that it is the children's meeting and they bring the life and gladness. He reminds us this should not be felt as a duty for adults, but undertaken as a joy and pleasure. He asks how we might make this opportunity more available to more adults. We also considered the issue of safeguarding our children. We note that the PVG scheme is changing and Mary Jane is keeping up with this. There is a suggestion that we could have a conversation / playing with Friends centring on children and those who currently work with them. We propose:

1. the above in the newsletter and notices
2. a "playing with Friends" session
3. possibly an all age worship
4. we could "open the doorway" by having the children's books around at lunch to share together
5. those who already work with the children would appreciate meeting together and interested Friends could be encouraged to join this if they wished

We ask the PEC group to take this forwards. We thank Ian for all his work on this.

#### **2024/11/04 Meeting for Worship on 1st Sundays**

There have been some suggestions about changes to this Meeting for Worship.

We propose to try meeting in the celebration foyer on 1st December and bring this back to our next business meeting. We ask elders to continue consulting Friends about timing and duration and location.

#### **2024/11/05 Financial Review**

Our treasurer Chris Holman gave us a review of our financial situation - attached. He will investigate acquiring a card reader for donations at Meeting. He reminded us that giving via the annual appeal is the most efficient way to contribute. We thank Chris for all his work as treasurer.

#### **2024/11/06 Arrangements for welcoming Friends arriving, and signalling the end of Meeting for Worship.**

We agree:

that the person welcoming no longer needs to send out an email in advance (this began during Covid regulations) as clerks will send a reminder by email.

that the welcomer will ask all Friends arriving after 11am (on 2nd and 4th Sundays) to wait with them or in the garden or hallway until 11.10am and all enter together to minimise disturbance of our gathered Meeting.

that the person reading notices (we now have a pool of notice readers) will be the person to signal the end of Meeting for Worship by shaking hands with the person next to them. We will designate a regular seat for this person and put a note on this chair.

**2024/11/07                      Date of next meeting**  
Sunday 23rd February 2025, at Bellfield 12.45-2pm.

**2024/11/08                      Closing worship**

Signed

Robin Liebmann (co-clerk)

Sarah Martin (co-clerk)

Marian Willoner (co-clerk)

## **ACTION POINTS**

**Treasurer** - check if we can get money to MA'AN Development Centre

**Clerks** - add "tuning in phrase" to newsletter and notices  
- liaise with Bellfield re sound absorbing fabric wall panels  
- add minute 2024/11/03 to notices and newsletter

**PEC group** - take forward 2024/11/03 by:  
                  organising a "play with Friends" session  
                  organising a meeting for those working with children and those interested  
                  put out children's books at Meeting for Eating  
                  consider having an all age worship

notice on designated seat for notice reader

**elders** - consult more widely around timing, duration and location of 1st Sunday Meeting for Worship