



February 22

Scottish Friend



Photograph 1: Climate march leaving Kelvingrove on Global Day of Action for Climate Justice.

Scottish Friend is distributed by Sue Proudlove, on behalf of the General Meeting for Scotland.



Please send articles as an editable attachment to amer.s.syed@gmail.com or typed or hand-written documents to *The Editor Scottish Friend, Quaker Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh EH1 2JL* to arrive five weeks before GM, ie, by 4 June 2022. If you submit images, please ensure that they are about 1 MB in size.



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From your new editor

Friends, first of all, I would like to thank Sila Collins-Walden for her contribution as the editor of Scottish Friend(SF) for the last four years. I am particularly grateful for her encouragement and support. This is my first edition and I am delighted to bring some very fantastic contributions from across Scotland and beyond containing a mix of information, reflection and poetry.

Lot of events have happened since the last edition was released. COP26 in Glasgow has been one of the important events and it certainly brought communities together. I was fortunate to attend the Interfaith Gathering in the Spirit of Talanoa Dialogue at Garnethill Synagogue. Talanoa dialogue is a methodology used by the indigenous communities from Fiji, which leads the discussion amongst participants under three main themes: where are we? where do we want to go? and how do we get there?



We heard from representatives from places that are being destroyed due to climate change and it was moving to hear their account. As a part of the evening events, there were a range of questions that participants discussed in small groups. I was part of climate science group facilitated by Lindsey Fielder Cook of Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO)¹. The topic of climate science evoked stimulating discussion on the topic and one sentence that remained with me from that session was: *Personal witness political action.*

On 6 November, I joined the Global Day of Action for Climate Justice along with other Quakers from around the country and beyond. It was a very Scottish or rather Glaswegian afternoon- teeming with rain, as we marched from Kelvingrove to Glasgow Green. The description of the atmosphere was beyond words and I can only say it was a strong display of unity and the message for the urgency of climate action could not have been clearer. We wished to have been heard! I very much hope the momentum for demand for climate action continues for COP27 in Egypt.

On this note of hope, I leave you with the contributions and I do hope you enjoy reading them.

In Friendship
Amer

¹QUNO's December 2021 newsletter containing reflections from QUNO staff who attended COP26 is available here: [Geneva Reporter](#). Further details on QUNO's work are available at: <https://quno.org/>

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1 Calling for General Meeting for Scotland

Elizabeth Allen, GM Clerk

Saturday, 12th March 2022

Dear Friends,

Greetings to you all! As I write this letter, I can see a leaflet with the slogan “In turbulent times be a Quaker”, lying on a nearby shelf. Well, in times like these I do indeed feel grateful for the anchor of our Quaker faith and practice and for the personal challenges of our advices and queries. As GM approaches and we renew our efforts to build and strengthen our Quaker community and its wider connections, I am reminded that our Quaker discipline and the service we give strengthens us spiritually, as we engage with our turbulent world.



Our next General Meeting will be on 12th March. It will be by Zoom. We will start with worship at 10.15 am, break for lunch from 12.00 noon to 1.00 pm, and our afternoon session will finish about 2.30 pm. This is an opportunity to meet online with Friends from across Scotland. We worship together and in a spirit of worship we attend to our church affairs, and matters concerning the spiritual life and witness of Quakers in Scotland. Please do come! All are welcome.

In March last year, in response to a concern brought to us by North Scotland Area Meeting we agreed to set up a working group to reflect deeply on how we might develop Quakers in Scotland and to identify options for doing this that GM and AMs might consider, setting out the pros and cons of each. We wanted them to think creatively, whilst keeping in mind the work that had already been done. It was a tall order! The group are reporting back and will lay before us the options they have generated. We will spend time considering them and discerning the way forward.

Martin Burnell will talk us through the GM trustees report for 2021, which will give us an overview of how Quakers in Scotland are faring and Ann Kerr

will share some of the issues on Meeting for Sufferings' agenda. We will also hear from Carolyn Burch and Richard Raggett, the new joint-convenors of the Parliamentary Engagement Working Group, about the on-going work of the group and plans for this year. Our GM link people with ecumenical and interfaith organisations will tell us what it has been like for them to be Quaker representatives on these bodies.

Papers and the draft agenda will be circulated about a week prior to GM. if you do not receive them, please ask Sue Proudlove scotfriends@gmail.com for a copy. If you have any questions, please contact me, your clerk, by email essallen@msn.com or telephone 01620 894834.

Elizabeth Allen



Photograph 2: A beautiful rock on the beach, Isle of Iona.

2 The Scottish Blend - Report of the General Meeting for Scotland in November

Alastair Reid, West Scotland Area Meeting

GENERAL Meeting for Scotland (GMS) held its first blended meeting on Saturday 20th November at Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House and across all of Scotland. General Meeting for Scotland meets quarterly and is the organisation of Quakers in Scotland with four constituent Area Meetings which are made up of 33 local meetings.

69 Friends attended in Edinburgh and across Scotland. Edinburgh Meeting House recently installed audio visual equipment which has been used for several meetings including some of the Quaker contribution to COP26. Despite a few initial problems due to the slow bandwidth rather than our equipment, it was a successful and rewarding meeting.

We reflected on the success of the Quaker contribution to COP26, particularly in providing a place for creative activities and worship. Glasgow Friends were warmly thanked for their hard work in making their Meeting House such a welcome space for reflection and refreshments, and providing a space for mediators. Many found the official COP26 conference badly organised. As it largely excluded indigenous people it was good that we were able to help organise meetings for them to put their views across. Many Friends spoke about their activities in their local areas and how they had been able to assist and welcome visitors and take part in the multifaith celebrations. A range of large fabric panels produced by Friends and others were displayed on Glasgow Green expressing hope for the future. We were pleased to receive a letter of gratitude from Lindsay Fielder Cook of QUNO.

One of the delights in attending General Meeting for Scotland is finding out more about the wide range of Working Groups and organisations with which we are involved. In Scotland we are able to make direct contact with Scottish Government Ministers and staff on a frequent and in depth basis and our Parliamentary Engagement Officer (PEO) Andrew Tomlinson has been very useful in getting the Quaker point of view across.

Our Parliamentary Engagement Working Group (PEWG) reported that its priorities moving forward in Scotland include ensuring that the commitments made by the Scottish Government at COP26 are fulfilled. Scotland is the first country to set up a fund specifically to address Loss and Damage and we

are already working with sympathetic MSPs in parliament to find out what this will mean in practice. We will be focussing on the climate emergency, agro-ecological farming, and the Human Rights Bill and we have arranged to meet a Minister to discuss the establishment of a Peace Institute. Andrew attended and spoke at a round table discussion in Glasgow between Stop Climate Chaos Scotland and the Scottish Affairs Committee. He reported that it was largely dominated by questions from Conservative members of the committee who were looking for ways to discredit the climate movement, casting it as being both too radical and not representative. There were more helpful questions from other members about what would make a successful COP26 and what the impact on Scotland would be.

PEWEG has also met with a Scottish Minister to discuss government subsidies and grants given to companies that produce components for weapons. Hopefully this may lead to more strict grants conditions. Quakers were invited to send a representative to a hearing of a parliamentary Committee to discuss a ban on the provision or promotion of LGBT+ conversion therapy in Scotland.

The Scottish Quaker Community Justice Group was set up earlier this year and has continued to meet alongside the thriving informal Scottish Quaker Community Justice Network. The shared focus is on creating a more compassionate community, more empathy and communication with those who commit crimes and those who are harmed by them, more recognition of how differently people who have experienced trauma respond and therefore how inappropriate traditional punishment models are as a way of responding to criminal behaviour and how alternative models like therapeutic communities and restorative justice can be more appropriate. The group is working to provide a response to the Scottish government consultation on the creation of a National Care Service.



We heard a report on Scottish CND (with which Friends have been involved for many years) and its current hopes and struggles. There are some areas of hope of progress on nuclear disarmament, involving Scottish Parliamentarians. SCND now recognises the racist nature of nuclear weapons doctrines and the ties to colonialism, and how ways of working need to change.

The Edinburgh Peace and Justice Centre celebrated its 40th birthday last year – by re-framing as Peace & Justice: building a culture of peace in Scotland. We remembered with thanks how the late Geoffrey and Elizabeth Carnall were involved from its inception. The Centre has developed six major programmes based on its core values: Non-violence, Conflict Resolution, Human Rights, Challenging Systemic Injustices, Disarmament, Challenging Militarism and Protecting Mother Earth. More information can be found at <https://peaceandjustice.org.uk>.

In the afternoon General Meeting for Scotland broke into smaller groups and discussed the question “What are the spiritual and pastoral needs in our Meeting, and how can they be met?” The following are some of the comments:

Spiritual Needs - Meeting for Worship was seen as central to all we do particularly the experience of a truly gathered meeting which is the basis of our discernment. The pandemic has broken the rhythm of our attendance and some have felt disconnected. Our disproportionately ageing membership has affected our ability to share the hope and joy that the light of God in everyone makes us all worthy. We will need to work hard to gain or refresh our understanding of Quaker practices with both young Friends and smaller meetings. We will revive our learning groups which have struggled during the last couple of years. This particularly has affected more isolated meetings and so elders and overseers are learning new ways to communicate and support needs of all Friends.

Pastoral Needs - while many Friends are controlled by fear from listening to bad news, our pastoral needs are often not met, and we need to strengthen our Quaker communities, including those for whom meeting by Zoom is difficult. We have used a variety of models for online or blended meetings but sometimes this puts further pressure on elders and overseers. We have had success with more frequent evening and daily meetings which cover a wider geographic area and which now include more isolated Friends who would not otherwise be able to attend meeting. Friends in Scotland have been using Zoom and teleconferencing for many years now, starting well before the pandemic so we have been able to be more flexible. Different meetings have found

ways to ‘chat’ in groups after meetings. Regular cards or phone calls to isolated Friends or those in care homes and a regular note of what happened in local meetings has also helped.

Building community is strengthened by working together on projects. Glasgow Friends were enriched by the COP26 experience but the challenge is now how to build on that momentum. There are also various spiritual practices and processes, including Quaker Life’s “RESTORE” process, which will help strengthen us.

We are developing different ways of looking after each other. For some having role holders for spiritual and pastoral tasks takes away from the need for us all to look after each other although they can prevent issues or people being forgotten. Throughout Scotland we are trying out new models of pastoral care. Some Friends independent of roles step forward to organise events. Nevertheless we have found that one format does not suit all meetings whether large or small.



You can expect to hear more from Friends in Scotland in the future particularly as we now have a new Local Development Worker. We may be spread out over a large area but we are active and exploring new ways to be Quakers today.

3 Update from BoD Revision Committee

Mary Woodward, SE Scotland AM

IT'S been some seven months since I've written an update about our work, largely due to my health problems: blood clots in my lungs landed me in hospital in August and then slowed me down dramatically for several months, meaning that I had to step back from most of the committee's work, while still continuing as 'gigs manager' – working on the planning and delivery of sessions about our work to AMs and other interested Quaker groups.

Fortunately I'm making a good recovery, and others on the committee were running our sessions at Yearly Meeting Gathering. I had to miss most of our most recent committee meeting [in October] but thanks to our 'buddy system' and frequent conversations with several of my committee friends, I don't feel out of the loop. Our next committee meeting is at the end of January, and I expect to be fully involved in it and our subsequent work.

Looking back at my notes from the July weekend, I realise how much I rely on my aural memory to add detail to what I've written: at this distance, it's much harder to make a good report on all that went on. We discussed what our future work might be – still in small groups, but on which topics, and in which order? Some people have finished their task work, and are itching to do more, while other groups are still working on their topics and yet others are feeling the need for a rest while they juggle the rest of their lives... We were asked to let the clerks know where we sat on this spectrum, and what new topics we are interested in, so that they could consider how to take our work further.

The report from the group working on Trusteeship and Charitable Status raised a number of questions we need to consider. Some of the concepts within this topic might need separate explanatory sections: but the same concepts arise within other topics – how do we ensure that topic entries are intelligible while at the same time avoiding excessive repetition/ explanation? We can't assume that everyone will read the Book from start to finish: but if they 'dip in', how do we ensure that they understand the concepts behind what they are reading? An electronic 'book' will be able to contain hyperlinks to explanations, quotations, illustrations, but a hard copy one won't.

We are also still discerning quite what 'the Voice of the Book' will be – the language, tone, and 'feel' of the introductions and topic sections – and a group has been set up to look at the topic papers already produced to see what can be learned from them, while also beginning work on producing a glossary.

The use of extracts was also discussed – whether they are placed within or after specific pieces of text, and whether we could/ should use extracts from non-Quaker sources. There was a wide range of opinions, and we are only at the beginning of what will be a long threshing process. Meanwhile, all submissions to the committee continue to be tagged, and I’m supremely grateful that others on the committee are not only competent to do this work, but also enjoy it!

The key messages from our July committee meeting:

- *We have completed more draft text of topic areas and will begin to undertake work on further aspects. Pieces we complete are banked until we are ready to undertake further development in the future.*
- *We are still seeking the definitive ‘Voice of the Book’ and a group will work on this over the next few months, using draft material to consider the choices we are making.*
- *We have discussed our use of quotations, and will continue to develop our understanding of their place and importance in the new publication.*
- *We continue to develop the practical processes and structures which play a significant part in supporting our work.*



My participation in the October committee sessions was limited to a brief appearance to reassure everyone that I was still alive but currently without the energy to play any meaningful part in the weekend’s work. I was delighted to learn that Finola O’Sullivan, one of our 2021 ‘intake’, had accepted the nomination of co-convenor of the Communicating with Friends group, replacing Nuala Watt who had asked to be released. I’m glad Nuala will still be part of CwF, and look forward to getting to know Finola as we work together on our visits to AMs and other interested groups.

Feedback from our sessions at Yearly Meeting Gathering was invited, and I was able to say how much I'd appreciated the creative session I'd attended, and how impressed I was by the many new contributions to our website Open to New Light which were posted during and after YMG. Go to www.padlet/bdrc/opentonevlight and have a look! It also became clear from the feedback from Friends that there were a number of misunderstandings about our work, particularly about its boundaries [we have not been appointed to solve the problems being aired in the Society today, but do need to reflect these concerns in our work] and we need to make this clear in our 'visits' and other communications with Friends.

The new topic groups were announced – Reviewing Text and Compiling Glossary, Testimony, and Meeting for Worship for Business. Friends who were currently working at capacity were invited to let the clerks know when they felt able to take on more work, and if they felt particularly drawn to an area among the topics still awaiting our attention.

Given the then state of the pandemic, the committee felt that our January and October meetings next year should be via videoconferencing, but that we would hope to hold a blended meeting at Woodbrooke in July, thus allowing us to spend more time getting to know each other and working on areas that would benefit from a longer period of discernment than is usually possible in our weekend meetings. I can hardly wait!

Our small group work on Discernment continued over the summer, and a final 'first version' was received by the committee at the October meeting, along with texts on Nominations and Outreach – which latter the task group suggested should be renamed Sharing the Quaker Experience. These will be kept until the time comes for further work on them.

Discussion continued on the use of extracts and quotations – it has become clear that we need to be sure why we are including particular passages, which may not be the same for every topic. It is important to include material written since the publication of Quaker faith & practice, but not throw out everything else!

The key messages from the October committee meeting:

- *We really appreciated hearing from everyone who attended our sessions at YMG online and have spent time thinking about the questions which were raised. Thank you for asking them!*
- *We continue to work on creative approaches to the challenges involved*

in producing an inclusive expression of Quaker tradition and experience. We continue to welcome your contributions, especially from those who may feel their experience is less well reflected in the current Quaker faith & practice. We are also interested in reflections on race, gender, climate justice, and related topics - and anything else on Friends' hearts at present.

- *We are working on draft material in a range of forms. Text, images, video, music, and other materials can work together, and we are exploring when and how we can share our thinking with the rest of the Yearly Meeting. Until then, we welcome your specific suggestions, invitations to Area Meetings and other events, and continued upholding.*

Prior to our clerks' report to Meeting for Sufferings in December, committee members were invited to take part in a session with MfS representatives, to answer any questions they might have. The clerks' report to MfS was well received [and printed in the 10 December issue of *The Friend* – do read it!], and has already prompted an invitation to us to visit Gloucestershire AM in 2022. This is in addition to those already planned at East Sussex AM and Cambridgeshire AM in February and March respectively. I really enjoy the preparatory meetings with AM clerks and others, and am delighted to be joined in them by Finola, both for her company and insights, and because, should I fall under a bus tomorrow, there's someone else who knows what's going on... We have an increasing number of committee members who not only take part but also lead these sessions, which has been extremely helpful these last few months – though I do still love taking part in them!

It's been another difficult year for the BDRC as we continue to work remotely, but there's also been a lot of joy in working together and beginning to get to know the members who were appointed earlier this year. I was delighted to learn that another Welsh representative has been appointed by MfS – Christine Trevett – and look forward to getting to know her.

Looking forward to the January committee meeting: one of the topics we will be considering is membership and, as a starting point, we have been asked to write a few sentences on “what membership means to me?” I commend this exercise to you, too, as 2021 ends and we look forward to what we hope will be a more peace-full, hope-full, and joy-full 2022.

Thank you all for your prayers and support as we work on your behalf: we can't do it without you!

4 Welcome, friend!

Hillary Patrick, Arran LM

WELCOMING friends or newcomers to our community is surely something very close to Quakers' hearts. Some of us are better at it than others, but all of us, whatever our level of social skills, can try. As someone who has recently moved to a different area, I have greatly appreciated what people have done to make me feel welcome.

Refugees, coming from far away and in circumstances which are far from ideal, are so much more in need of our friendship. So it is with pleasure I report on two new initiatives that say, 'welcome' to them.

Faithful welcome

The first is from Scottish Faiths Action for Refugees (SFAR). Quakers in Scotland have been members of this multi-faith partnership since its creation in response to the Syrian refugee crisis in 2015, first represented by me and now, ably, by Lynne Barty.

Sabine Chalmers, their co-ordinator explains their Faithful Welcome partnership. She invites local Meetings to consider if they can make use of this new project .

SFAR seeks to promote common values of hospitality and welcome, and coordinates and encourages action by churches and faith communities in Scotland to support asylum seekers and refugees.

Our vision is that Scotland is a safe place where refugees and asylum seekers feel welcomed and included. Faith groups have played an integral part in enabling this.

In September 2021 we were successful in securing funding from the EU which enabled us to set up a new project in partnership with Faith in Community Scotland called **Faithful Welcome**.



Faithful Welcome invites people from Scotland's rich diversity of faith traditions to be part of creating a more welcoming and inclusive society for newcomers and play an integral role in supporting two-way integration.

We would love to speak with groups who are interested in learning more about engaging with refugees and asylum seekers in their area for the first time.

And we invite faith communities to share what they're already doing in making a difference in the lives of refugees and asylum seekers, and to work with us to grow and develop that work.

How to link in with Faithful Welcome:

- Join us for free workshops and information sessions on refugees, asylum and integration.
- Work with our staff team for one-to-one support and build your capacity.
- Engage in networking opportunities and connect with like-minded people.
- Benefit from funding and practical advice

With your help we would like to see refugees and asylum-seekers have strong social connections, leading fulfilling lives and be confident about using their own gifts and skills to contribute to community life, as well as having their needs met. Join us on the journey! For more information visit

<https://www.sfar.org.uk/>

Failte Edinburgh, a community sponsorship journey

Lynne Barty, project lead, writes:

Failte Edinburgh comprises Quaker Members and Attenders from three Local Meetings within South East Scotland Area Meeting and several other volunteers not associated with the Society of Friends. Our aim is to make a difference by sponsoring one refugee family to come and live in Edinburgh and by supporting them through their first year or two of residence. This is being done through the UK Government-UNHCR Community Sponsorship Scheme: <https://www.unhcr.org/uk/refugeeweek/learn-about-community-sponsorship/>

We have now completed the paperwork for our Application in Principle and have produced our own Safeguarding and Complaints Policies, Volunteer Code of Conduct, etc. These are currently being reviewed by the Refugee Resettlement Officer at the City of Edinburgh Council with whom we are having a meeting to finalise them next week. It is a great privilege to be able to work together in this way.

How to donate to Failte Edinburgh:

By cheque or CAF voucher

Please send a cheque or CAF voucher payable to Failte Edinburgh to Mark Bitel at 7 Bellevue Road, Edinburgh EH7 4DA.

By bank transfer

Please send a bank transfer to the following account, with your name as the reference:

Co-operative Bank plc

Account name: Failte Edinburgh

Sort code: 08-92-99

Account number: 67237353.

Gift Aid

If you wish us to claim Gift Aid on your donation, please complete the gift aid form (if you have one) or contact Mark (mark@evaluation.u-net.com) to send you a form. The form can be returned to Mark at his home address (as above) or to the Edinburgh Quaker Meeting House (address on the form). Alternatively, you can send a scanned copy by email to Mark.

Acknowledgement of your donation

Mark will send you a receipt to acknowledge your donation by email (if you have provided this) or by post.

Thank you for your support.



Photograph 3: Art work by school children, Peace Memorial Park, Hiroshima, Japan.

5 Woodbrooke Courses and Workshops

Sila Collins-Walden Inverness LM

JUST recently I was asked speak at NSAM (via zoom) along with another Friend, Pam from Inverness LM, about Woodbrooke and the various courses and workshops that we had attended both in person and online. This was to hopefully encourage Friends to take up the offer of the many varieties of courses and workshops Woodbrook has available. We spoke of the courses and workshops we have attended and the benefits that we have gained in learning over a number of years.

I know Woodbrooke pretty well, having served as a FiR (Friend in Residence) on a number of occasions. I have been sent on a number of training courses, paid for by NSAM. I have engaged in numerous workshops and courses both short and more in depth. I have even taken holidays at Woodbroke! The food is great and the company at Woodbroke is enjoyable too!

Friends, in the past you may remember we have had many Workshops with Woodbrooke on the Road. (Now known as Woodbrooke Where you Are) with Tim Peat Ashworth, Andy Stoller and Mary Meeks and other tutors. Our Friend John Melling of Inverness LM took on the responsibility for arranging them in the past. I organized the last one with Tim Peat Ashworth which took place a couple of years ago at the LA'rche Community Centre.

The aim of Woodbrooke is to encourage Friends to engage in learning in order to define our understanding of our Quaker faith. The learning programme provided by Woodbrooke is to explore our spirituality to support and inspire our community and hopefully change the world! Because we engage in many campaigns in the world for various reasons we must go prepared for it!

Friends are known as a society for their penchant for learning and for wanting to expand their knowledge and understanding of the world around us. Because we serve in a variety of roles we need to be informed, to arm ourselves with knowledge and understanding of the roles we take on, trustees, clerks, treasurers and other roles. It's not just about roles - there are courses on the arts, creative writing, meeting for worship, through dance with Robin Bowles and Ann Bettys – yes, It can be done via zoom! – and so many more opportunities for learning, so many topics of discovery. I certainly have become more knowledgeable as a result of engaging in the many courses provided by Woodbrooke.

For Friends who may not know this, Woodbrooke was founded in 1903. It was a vision that George Cadbury and John Wilhelm Rowntree had for a permanent settlement with a mission to “foster a vital Friends ministry and learning

facility”. Woodbrooke has grown and evolved over time and the Quaker way of learning has changed, but the vision remains the same. The Quaker approach to learning is expressed through our ministry and to prepare us to communicate to the rest of the world, preparing us to serve in various Quaker roles.

Some of the workshops and courses I have attended online and in person and gained much from them:

- QPSW at Swanwick: Turning the Tide workshop.
- Radical Spirituality with Ben Pink Dandelion.
- Mother’s of Israel with Stuart Masters.
- Roots of the Quaker Way with Stuart Masters.
- Voices of the Earth - A mixture of Poetry and Visual Art with Zelig and Philp Gross.

Friends, I do hope you will look at the Woodbrooke website, and see what’s available in workshops and courses. Woodbrooke is there to support you and hopefully you will support Woodbrooke too.

There are bursaries available also pay as led courses (pay what you can afford). No one need be prevented from engaging in learning because of lack of funds.

Links to courses and workshops:

- <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses/>
- <https://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/woodbrooke-where-you-are/>



Photograph 4: Woodbrooke - Holland House from The Lake.

6 Aberdeen Friends Reflect on the threat of Environmental Breakdown

Lesley Reynolds, Aberdeen LM

INSPIRED by ‘The Loving Earth Project’ (<https://lovingearth-project.uk/>) a group of us Aberdeen Quakers created a display of textile panels reflecting our environmental concerns. We wanted to add our voice to those demanding more climate action. Some of our Meeting were protesting in Glasgow during COP26 but not all of us could do that. This was a public expression of our varied concerns and the different things we are doing to reduce the harms to our planet. A total of eight panels were completed using preloved fabrics and rejuvenated sewing and collage skills. We started by meditating on what the effect the climate crisis was likely to have (or already had) on something we loved. We then thought about actions we could take to reduce our personal impact on the planet. Next, we made sketches and worked on notes for statements about our panels. Our concerns were wide ranging:

- Islands disappearing under increasing sea levels,
- Making better choices in transport and shopping,
- Living sustainably: supporting bees, trees and using bicycles.
- Just transition to green hydrogen and renewable energy,
- My carbon footprint,
- Trees for Life,
- Melting of the ‘Third Pole’ (Tibetan Glacier) and,
- the Insect Apocalypse.

Despite the most horrendous weather and incredibly short daylight hours, Penny, Helen, and myself managed to hang the finished panels on the remains of the old Virginia Creeper on the side wall of 100 Crown Street. We were just in time; it was the Sunday before the COP26 conference began in earnest. Even more incredibly, the panels stayed pretty intact for the whole period of the conference, with just the odd straightening required from time to time. Finally, conference over, we were able to bring them indoors where they had an opportunity to dry off and be examined in greater detail by Friends and Attenders.

It was fun to be making and creating in community with other Quakers.



(a) A display of the panels at Aberdeen Meeting house.



(b) Gathering for the march on Global Day of Action for Climate Justice at Kelvingrove Park, Glasgow.

7 Poetry corner

7.1 Mother Nature's Prayer

David O'Donoghue, Monkstown Meeting, Dublin

Let me seize the sun
The clouds and the sky -
Your heavens above.
Also, let me grasp
Your soothing salty sea
And fresh liquid lakes.
Yet even if water
Runs through my fingers
It is still touchable
And tangible.
I am tenaciously
Treading a path -
God knows how -
To God knows where.
Stopping for a few
Brief moments
Here and there.
Perhaps somewhere, nowhere
Or everywhere in between.



Photograph 6: Autumn colours at Kenrokuen garden, Kanazawa, Japan.

7.2 Endings and Beginnings

Lysana Robinson, Skye LM

Endings often announce themselves
as the shortest day approaches.
Memories arise in my mind
as if to remind me of what made
its one and only appearance.

What happens is always new,
nothing ever re-occurs.
This is the way of things,
and I know that to be true,
so why does melancholia
creep into view in December?

Beauty in nature is inherent
in every season of the year,
an ever-renewing cycle in which
Beauty is always present.
Our own lives are gifts given by
each moment to fulfil the next.

Generations gift themselves
to create future earthy life.
One December night, decades ago,
I laid beside my father
as he took his last generous breath
releasing me into my future.

Mid-winter brings a deep hush,
as if, below ground, the Earth
is waiting with baited breath
to marvel, with incredulity at the next
miraculous emergence of matter
from the mysterious non-material realm.

The return of the light prompts
miniscule, unseen stirrings.
Spring releases them in a
rush of pent-up energy
bursting forth into new life,
gifted by our collective past.

It's the turn of the year,
be prepared to be surprised.
The future is a glorious mystery,
the past, a changeable memory.
Be still. To a clear, fearless mind
all will be revealed in its own time.

7.3 Song Thrush

Lysana Robinson, Skye LM

Oh Song Thrush, I hear you singing
so unexpectedly this sunny morning.
My senses awaken, is it Spring?
Yet my diary says it's January

So what prompts you to sing today?
Are you a wise old bird
capable of reading minute signals
my reasoning mind is blind to?

Should I sow my beans already
or pay heed to my past experience?
I have so many questions that maybe
you never have need to ask.

Now, even to me, feels a perfect day
for you to share your song.
I'll hush and be a grateful recipient.
I'll cease my ponderings about future.

I'll rest in your nourishing balm
and settle into right here now
in this present glorious moment..
It is the only place to be.

8 Obituary: Thích Nhất Hạnh

THÍCH Nhất Hạnh or Thầy to many of those who knew him, died on 22 January 2022. He and his monastic centre “Plum Village” is well known to Friends as Zen-Quaker retreat has been a regular fixture at Woodbrooke. In appearance, Thầy was a very simple Buddhist monk, a Zen master to be precise but in stature, was a remarkable man who was a peace activist, a teacher, an author, a climate activist and a poet, who coined the phrase engaged Buddhism.

Many Friends see similarity within our Quaker practices and the Zen practices introduced by Thầy. One of the practices he taught was being peace and cultivating joy. In both of these practices, one was encouraged and invited to cultivate peace and joy from what one have rather than something anticipated. I am reminded of this at this time of the year when the snow drops are appearing, the first signs of crocuses and the daffodils on their way, taking a moment to pause, notice and being nourished by the joy that they bring.

Thầy focussed on building communities or *Sanghas* which brings practitioners together, where they know, listen and care for each other, similar to the role of our Quaker meetings.

His teaching would continue to influence current and future generations in their quest for peace, joy and happiness². *Ed.*



Photograph 7: Thích Nhất Hạnh. Photograph from <https://plumvillage.org/>

²Plum village: <https://plumvillage.org/>. Plum Village UK
<https://plumvillage.uk/>. Plum Village's Youtube channel containing Thầy talks
<https://www.youtube.com/plumvillage>

9 Review

9.1 Eighteen takes on God: A short Guide for Those Who are Still Perplexed by Leslie Stevenson, St Andrews Meeting



When Leslie asked me to commission a review or to include an article on her book, I read the subtitle and thought- it is for those who are still perplexed- Ah! that is me! Since I started attending Quaker Meetings, it feels I am on my own spiritual journey exploring what God means to me and how I experience God. It was a very nice opportunity to read excerpts of Leslie's new book as it examines eighteen different takes on God.

Leslie has organised the book into three strands. Part I, investigates eight different theologies including God as a bearded old man (e.g. by Michelangelo), an omni-present person and apophatic theology that asserts we can only say what God is

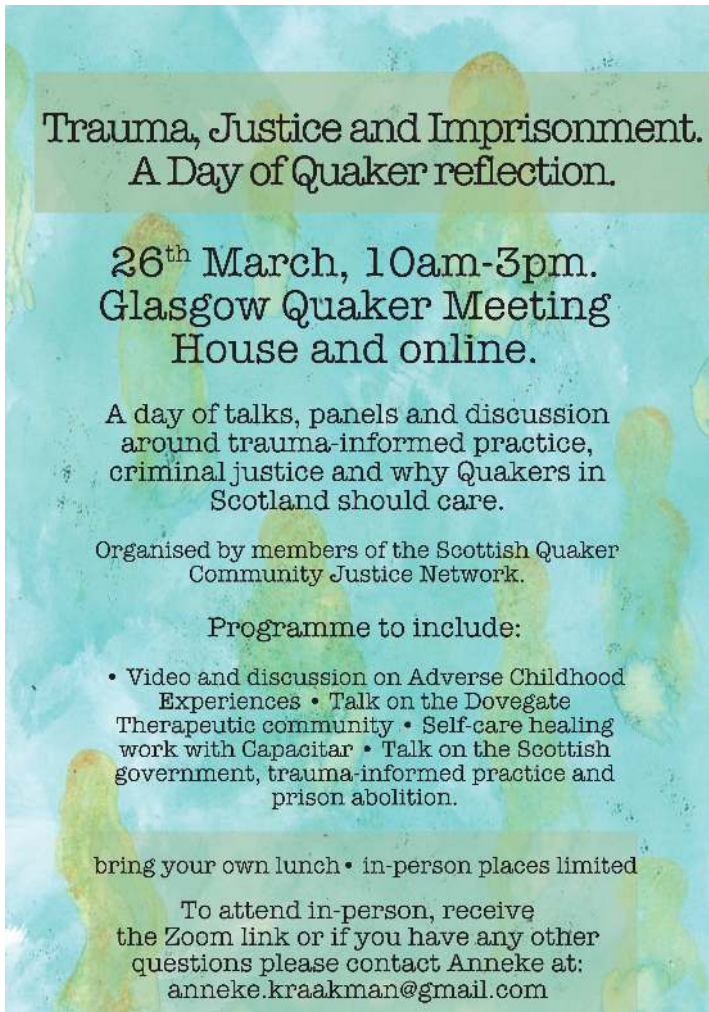
not. The discussion is around comparing whether or not God is a person, is God simple? or changes over time and can God be described in words. Part II focuses on the five different ways of understanding the language about God. A discussion of the instrumentalist language used in ritual and worship, Fauerbach's interpretation of Christianity, interpretation of Wittgenstein relativism, the notion that the language and beliefs of Christianity have their sense only in the context of Christian form of life. Part III discusses religious experience and practice, including insights from Martin Buber's poetic account of I-Thou relation that we have with other beings and with God; Kant's hope of rationally purified religion; and Quakers experience of God.

Overall, it makes a very pleasant and thought provoking reading that fundamentally explores the conceptualisation of God through clearly defined and interconnected strands from theological and philosophical discussion. *Ed.*

10 Notices

10.1 Trauma, Justice and Imprisonment. A day of Quaker reflection

Supplied by Ren Wednesday.



Trauma, Justice and Imprisonment.
A Day of Quaker reflection.

26th March, 10am-3pm.
Glasgow Quaker Meeting
House and online.

A day of talks, panels and discussion
around trauma-informed practice,
criminal justice and why Quakers in
Scotland should care.

Organised by members of the Scottish Quaker
Community Justice Network.

Programme to include:

- Video and discussion on Adverse Childhood Experiences
- Talk on the Dovegate Therapeutic community
- Self-care healing work with Capacitar
- Talk on the Scottish government, trauma-informed practice and prison abolition.

bring your own lunch • in-person places limited

To attend in-person, receive the Zoom link or if you have any other questions please contact Anneke at:
anneke.kraakman@gmail.com

10.2 Northern Friends Summer Shindig- 30 July to 6 August 2022

Supplied by Jen Hodson & Will Hutcheson, Coordinators for the shindig.

10.2.1 Information for young people

Northern Young Friends' Summer Shindig is an event for 11-16 year olds from across Scotland and the North of England. It's a chance to for you to live together with friends for a week in a Quaker environment. It's a spiritual adventure with fun, games and laughter thrown in!

This year we are going back to Ackworth School in Yorkshire where there will be new adventures to be had!

What will happen in the week?

We have a theme each year which will be explored by visiting speakers, and we'll have discussion groups in which you consider the issues raised (and loads of other stuff). We will also explore the theme in a less formal way, through drama, art, craft, cookery, worship and games. There will be free time where you can explore the site, chat to your friends or go for a swim in the pool. In the evenings there is Radio A-worth, where you get your opportunity to show off your talents (or lack of them if recent staff sketches are any indication!).

Normally on Wednesday, we do something a little different. In previous years we've organised a choice of trips; either to Lightwater Valley to brave the rollercoasters and see the ducks, or to York to explore the sights. Last year, as we were in a Shindig bubble, we did a whole event simulation game, had an ice cream van pay us a visit and had an extended swimming session. We will be deciding closer the time what we offer this year, so if you'd like to make a suggestion, please make it known in the additional information form!

New to Shindig

Many people going away from home for the first time can feel nervous, especially if they don't know anyone. You will soon make friends - we have a first timers supper on the first night where you will meet other people who are new. You will also be part of a family group and discussion group, each with two staff members attached, to help you get to know the ropes and meet people. And remember that about one in four young friends at summer shindig will be there for the first time. The only down side of it all is that you will have to go home at the end. However you will leave with many great memories

and new friends!

Apply now at <https://forms.gle/kjahFwCX Ae2ka3fC9>



Photograph 8: A few YP's up early on a Friday morning to have to go at some outdoor Ceilidh Fusion.

10.2.2 Information for parents

Northern Young Friends' Summer Shindig is a week-long residential event and is intended for young people who are connected with the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). If your young person will be between 11 and 16 years old on 30th June this year, then they are eligible to apply. The event is primarily for young people who live within our catchment area of Scotland General Meeting, Teesdale & Cleveland, Wensleydale & Swaledale, Northumbria, North Cumbria, West Cumbria and Kendal & Sedbergh Area Meetings, but we welcome youngsters from further afield if we have space!

Last year was slightly different to previous years:

- we required all young people to come to the event by car, and drivers and young people all had to show proof of a negative lateral flow test on arrival
- young people and staff were only admitted into the Shindig bubble if they had proof of a negative lateral flow test
- we tested staff and young people midweek to ensure our bubble was covid-free

- we asked all families to ensure they were able to pick their young person up in the event that Shindig had to be closed early as a result of a positive covid test.

We will be deciding closer to May, based on government guidance, whether we do this again.

This year we will be returning to Ackworth School in North Yorkshire. This has been a fantastic venue with plenty of space both indoors and out. It's also lovely to hold the event in a Quaker school.

There is an overall theme for the week and on three mornings there are sessions facilitated by guest speakers followed by discussions in small groups. The speakers can interpret the theme quite liberally, allowing their particular knowledge, experiences and style of presentation to bring the theme to life.

The programme for the week also includes activities, sports, various entertainments, evening worship and unstructured free time. Normally on Wednesday, we do something a little different. In previous years we've organised a choice of trips; either to Lightwater Valley to brave the rollercoasters and see the ducks, or to York to explore the sights. Last year, as we were in a Shindig bubble, we did a whole event simulation game, had an ice cream van pay us a visit and had an extended swimming session. We will be deciding closer the time what we offer this year, so if you'd like to make a suggestion, please make it known further down the form!

Our experience is that, as the week progresses, young people develop friendships with strong foundations that last throughout the year and beyond. We are a community within which participants learn about honesty, trust and acceptance of themselves and others. We also have lots of fun!

One main aim of Summer Shindig is to give young people a view and experience of Friends as a whole. We seek to help develop in young people a fuller understanding of the Society of Friends, its beliefs and manner of worship.

Please apply **ONLINE** at: <https://forms.gle/kjahFwCX Ae2ka3fC9>

Applications are taken on a first come first served basis but should be returned by **18th March 2022** at the latest.

The main set of information and forms, and the request for payment, will be sent to all successful applicants in early May. Do not send any money now.

The full fee should be sent by **6th June**.

The cost for the event will be £330 for the first child and £300 for subsequent children in the same family. If required, please tick the box relating to bursary help on the application form. It is important that cost does not prevent anyone from attending.

For further information, have a look at our new website:
<https://summershindig.wordpress.com/>

Queries about any matters regarding NYFSS should be sent to: Coordinators:
Jen Hodson & Will Hutcheson summershindig@gmail.com



Photograph 9: Autumn morning in Kelvingrove park, Glasgow.

10.3 EoI for the Principal of The Friends' School, Hobart, Australia

Supplied by Lynne Barty, Central Edinburgh Meeting.



THE FRIENDS' SCHOOL



Seeking Expressions of Interest

Principal (Head of School)
The Friends' School, Hobart, Australia

The Principal of The Friends' School, Nelson File, will complete his contract of employment in January 2024, after 11 years of distinguished leadership and service to the School.

The Friends' School (Hobart, Australia) is seeking expressions of interest from suitably qualified and experienced educators who are members of The Religious Society of Friends (unprogrammed) for consideration as the next Principal (Head of School), starting in January 2024. The Board of Governors is providing a long lead time for international candidates who may have to progress through various Tasmanian and Australian regulatory requirements (including teacher registration and granting of visa) and transition to the Australian school year (February - December).

The School, founded in 1887 by a group of local Quakers with support from London Yearly Meeting, is frequently considered the best school in Tasmania and one of the top independent schools in Australia. It is the only Quaker school in the Southern Hemisphere, serving around 1300 students. As such, it is one of the largest Quaker schools in the world. The School is co-educational and serves local and international families from Early Learning through to Year 12 as a day and boarding school (46 boarding students). The School's focus is to implement its Purpose and Concerns, which is based on Quaker values and practices, through the Australian curriculum. Senior secondary students complete either the Tasmanian Certificate of Education (TCE) or the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme.

The School is a large and complex institution that is also responsible for an early childhood education program (Friends' Early Learning) catering for children as young as 12 weeks old through to school entry, and a publicly accessible health and fitness centre that serves around 1200 community members. Both are year-round enterprises. Consequently, the School employs nearly 400 staff members including teachers.

Successful candidates must meet several regulatory requirements in addition to having the appropriate qualifications, experience, dispositions and skills. In order to be a Principal in Tasmania, candidates must first qualify to be a fully registered (certified) teacher through the Tasmanian Teachers Registration Board (TRB). In order to achieve this requirement, non-Australian candidates must have completed a government recognised teacher training program and obtained teacher registration or certification in their home country that will be recognised by the TRB. Information on the Assessment of International Qualifications through the TRB can be found here. All international candidates must also meet the Australian skilled visa requirements prior to employment. The School will assist the successful candidate to seek the appropriate visa.

For additional information about the School and the position, please visit the School's website at www.friends.tas.edu.au/principal-appointment

If you have any queries regarding the position, these may be directed in the first instance to Louise Bridge (administration support for the Principal recruitment process) at lbridge@friends.tas.edu.au

It is anticipated that the position will be formally advertised in June/July 2022, however informal expressions of interest from members of The Religious Society of Friends are being sought prior to this, and should be forwarded to Louise Bridge.

23 Commercial Road, North Hobart 7008, Tasmania, Australia
friends.tas.edu.au

The Friends' School is an IB World School
CRICOS Provider Code 00477G



10.4 Updates to 2021 Book of Members and Attenders Sue Proudlove, GM Administrator

An electronic document containing **updates and amendments to the 2021 Book of Members and Attenders** has been sent to all Local Meeting Clerks, or Correspondent/Correspondence Clerk as appropriate. If you have a copy of the book and would like the updates document, please contact your Clerk. And if you're a Clerk and haven't received the document, please contact me!

Sue Proudlove, GM Administrator. scotfriends@gmail.com



Photograph 10: Iona Abbey in early September 2021.

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