

## **Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting at Clacton, 11.03.2018**

### Representatives

Clacton-on-Sea - Liz Prockter, Margaret Ahmed, Karl Sage (prevented)

Colchester – Helen Lewis, John Lewis, Eliza Jones, Rosalind Kaye, Tom Tebbutt

Sudbury – no representatives

Earls Colne – Jenny Kay, John Kay, Jayne Meleschko, David Lawrence

Harwich - no representatives

Present were 23 Friends, including 5 Attenders and 1 visitor.

**2018/13** Friends being met in the presence of God, Qfp 20.12 was read.

### **2018/14 Death of Friends**

We record with sadness the death of two Friends.

Reg Webb, of Colchester Meeting, died at the age of 70 on January 28. His funeral was held in the manner of Friends on March 1 at Colchester Crematorium, where Helen Lewis and Alison Parkes served as elders. Reg's humour, wisdom and music will be greatly missed.

Olwen Titchmarsh, of Sudbury Meeting, died at the age of 99 on February 15. Her burial will take place at Wrabness Woodland Memorial Site on Friday, March 23. A memorial meeting will be held at Sudbury Meeting House on Sunday April 22. This would have been Olwen's 100th birthday. Olwen will be remembered for her wonderful artwork and her deep love of nature and silence.

We ask Friends in Colchester and Sudbury to prepare testimonies to the grace of God in the lives of Reg and Olwen respectively, for the AM Book of Memorials.

### **2018/15 Membership matters**

#### **2018/16 Appointments**

##### **Triennial Appointments**

**Funeral Committee** - We reappoint Carol Holding and Charles Bather to the Funeral Committee. Carol will serve until end March 2021 and Charles until end May 2021.

**Trustee** - We reappoint Ecky Prolingheuer to serve a second triennium as Trustee, until end March 2021.

**Overseer** - Phyl Reid completes her triennium as Overseer for Colchester Meeting at the end of March 2018. We thank Phyl for her service and ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of another Friend for this role.

**Website Manager** - Ann Webb completes her term as Website Manager this month, and we thank her for her service. We appoint John Kay, who has been serving as Assistant Website Manager, to take on the role of Manager, for the triennium March 2018 - end March 2021. We ask Nominations Committee to bring forward the name of a Friend to serve as Assistant Website Manager.

### **Representatives**

#### **QPSW Annual Spring Conference**

We appoint Karl Sage to attend the QPSW Annual Spring Conference on 23-25 March 2018 at the Hayes Conference Centre, Swanwick, Derbyshire.

#### **2018/17 Renovation of Colchester Meeting House**

We heard Colchester LM Minute 18.10 asking for support from AM with finding a Friend to manage their Meeting House renovation project and coordinate costed proposals. We refer this matter to Trustees to work with the Clerk of Colchester Meeting to find a way forward.

#### **2018/18 Action on local poverty**

We heard a minute (18.12) from Colchester Meeting asking us to consider making funds available to support the work of local organisations addressing homelessness and poverty.

John Lewis reported on the immediate need of the Colchester Food Bank to have larger premises. We agree to an annual donation of £5000 for two years to help them locate to new premises, while still balancing their budgets.

John also described the work of Beacon House, which offers a dozen different services. John reported that there is an urgent need to extend the current emergency winter accommodation scheme with St Peter's Church into the summer and beyond. The cost is approximately £1250 per month. We considered John's proposal to grant no more than 50% of that amount per month, subject to the following conditions: (i) another donor provides the balance, (ii) the grant is made only when the service is available, and (iii) the money is restricted to the purpose of supporting the emergency accommodation scheme.

We ask John Lewis to work together with Tom Tebbutt, AM Treasurer, to ensure that our conditions can be met, and, accordingly, we agree to make available to Beacon House up to £625 per month for emergency accommodation, as and when needed. Beacon House can be invited to apply to us for this funding as a grant. We refer this matter to Trustees to refine the details. We authorise the AM Treasurer to make the agreed payments. John's full report is attached to these minutes.

#### **2018/19 Area Meeting Gathering**

Further to Minutes 2017/13, 2017/44 and 2018/09, we agree to offer full bursary support, as required, for all members and attenders of our AM wishing to attend the AM Gathering at High Leigh in October. Funding will come from the Jack Fields Legacy, where appropriate, and AM funds. We heard from Peter Whiteley that the cost per head will be £150, which we agree is acceptable.

#### **2018/20 LM Responsibilities**

We have received reports from each of our LMs, for which we thank them; printed copies were distributed to Friends present and are attached to these minutes. These reports will be incorporated into the Annual Report for 2017 and submitted to the Charities Commission.

### **2018/21 Support for American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)**

Further to Minute 2018/12, the clerk consulted Marigold Bentley, Head of Peace Programmes and Faith Relations for QPSW, as well as Charles Bather, Assistant Clerk, and drafted a letter which Marigold sent on our behalf to AFSC, which reads as follows:

"Friends of Southern East Anglia Quaker Meeting (part of Britain Yearly Meeting), met last Sunday for our usual Meeting for Church affairs. Among the items considered was the recent exclusion of AFSC from working in Israel. The news of this both shocked and dismayed us all. We recognise the challenge to peace which such acts represent. Our wider yearly meeting contributes to peace and justice through the work of EAPPI which we support. However, we wish you all to know that we lovingly uphold you, your staff, committees and partners on the ground, in your efforts to work for peace in the Middle East. We collectively felt a strong guidance to send you a message of spiritual support at this difficult time. We send you loving greetings and hope that you might find stillness and Light, coupled with wisdom and energy in considering your way forward."

Kerri Kennedy of AFSC responded with thanks for our support and said she would make sure their team sees our message.

### **2018/22 Yearly Meeting 2018**

Yearly Meeting will be held on 4-7 May 2018 at Friends House in London. Friends and Attenders are warmly encouraged to attend; registration is essential. YM will be considering whether it is time to revise Quaker faith & practice, our book of discipline. Everyone, whether coming in person or upholding YM at home or in local Quaker communities, is asked to help the discernment of YM by doing the preparation set out in Preparation for Yearly Meeting. Bursary support can be sought in the usual ways. Please ask a clerk, elder or overseer if you would like more information, or visit the website [www.quaker.org.uk/ym](http://www.quaker.org.uk/ym)

### **2018/23 Meeting for Sufferings report**

We received a report from Robert Parkes for MfS held at Friends House in February. We thank Robert for his report, which will appear in the newsletter and on the AM website.

Signed,  
*Alison Parkes*

Alison Parkes  
Clerk