

## **WSAQM Meeting Together**

**Saturday April 18<sup>th</sup> 2020 10.15 - Zoom**

20/20 In attendance: Martin Wall (co-clerk), Anna Mullett (co-clerk), John Ainsworth (Elder) Charles Henderson, Margaret Stocks, Sheila Harvey, Huw Morgan, Gilly Lee, Richard Lee, Sue Hammond-Lovatt, Ali Dominy, Pat Ebdon, Pat Bell, Jen Bell, Sheila Whitlock.

Brian Collingridge was prevented.

**21/20 Quaker Faith and Practice 2.36 was read in our worship today.**

**22/20 News, concerns and aspirations from local meetings.**

(a) Bridgwater. Friends meet for MfW from 10.30-11am in their own homes. They feel deeply connected with each other at this time. A reading from A&Q is read every week. Gilly phones everyone weekly as part of meeting oversight. Practical needs are being met but there is pressure in the awareness of being OK when others elsewhere are not.

(b) Burnham. Having previously met every month, Burnham Friends now hold MfW every Sunday in their own homes, some for an hour, others prefer to drop in and out. Families with children also join the meeting for short periods. Sue felt that this new way of worship had helped bring the meeting together, bringing in Friends who for various reasons had not previously been able to physically attend meeting regularly including a member currently living overseas. She felt it could offer a solution to attendance at small meetings in the future.

(c) Ilminster. Friends gather for MfW in their own homes on Sundays from 10.30-11.30. Prior to the meeting the clerk sends out a poem or a reading either in written form or a recording although the latter has met with some technical problems. Any 'afterword' arising from the meeting is shared amongst Friends afterwards via the clerk. A Zoom MfW has been suggested for the next Sunday and it remains to be seen whether Friends will wish to pursue this.

(d) Spiceland. Friends meet for MfW from 10.30-11.30, in their own homes, with an afterword on Zoom for those who wish it, some Friends using the Zoom telephone option. The afterword also allows Friends to see families at home. Ali will forward a video clip from CYP to Friends at this meeting. It is a good way of connecting with Friends who are unable to physically make it to meeting. Spiceland's Central Group hold a Zoom meeting every Wednesday pm.

(e) Taunton. Friends meet from 10.30-11am in their own homes. Before each meeting the designated elder sends out an A&Q for that Sunday together with any ministry arising from meeting the previous Sunday. There is some interest amongst

Friends in holding a Zoom MfW, this is being explored. Taunton Friends aim to re-start Sunday evening meetings (6-6.30pm). The closure of TMH has resulted in a substantial loss of income. On a positive note the warden is still in post and this is now a permanent position. A gate into the garden is being erected next week and parking issues outside have been resolved.

(f) Wellington. Brian Collingridge earlier confirmed that Wellington meeting was not experiencing any particular problems, other than the universal wish that we would all be meeting together again soon.

(g) Minehead. Friends are managing well and are meeting at home every Sunday.

### **23/20 What Next**

It was agreed that there should be an elders and overseers meeting sometime soon. Ali Dominy will arrange this with help from the clerks.

Martin will co-ordinate a Business Team meeting. The next Area Meeting is scheduled for July 18<sup>th</sup>. We await to see how government regulations evolve.

### **24/20 A.O.B.**

Gilly Lee raised a concern about funerals in our AM and our need to consider how these will be conducted under the present restrictions. She gave the example of how recently Friends who were unable to attend a service met at home in silence at the time when the service was being held. A funeral may well be a difficult and painful experience given the present distressing requirements and the vulnerability of our ageing membership. We will meet each challenge as it arises. A burial will be taking place at Spiceland soon and we were reminded that it is a requirement that a burial at either Spiceland or Milverton burial ground is witnessed by a member of the Area Meeting.

### **25/20 Date of Next Area Meeting.**

We hope to meet again on Saturday July 18<sup>th</sup>.