

Minutes of WSAQM Area Meeting January 23rd 2021 by Zoom

Clerks: Anna Mullett Martin Wall

01/21. Quaker Faith and Practice 25.08 was read in our worship today.

02/21 Local Meeting Representatives:

Bridgwater	Shirley Anthony
Burnham on Sea	Sue Hammond-Lovatt
Ilminster	Huw Morgan, Valda Dagnell
Minehead	Faith Cartwright
Spiceland	Ali Dominy, Sarah Bovey
Taunton	Charles Henderson, Lynda Stewart
Wellington	Unable to appoint
Elder for the Meeting	Sarah Bovey.

03/21 Membership Matters

We record the deaths of:

Miriam Bligh - died 28th April 2020. The family hope that her ashes will be interred with those of her husband at Milverton burial ground in April this year, restrictions permitting.

Michael Stocks - died 31 December 2019

Pat Morris - died 24 June 2017.

04/21 Nominations

- The name of John Bell has been put forward to serve as a Trustee to 31st December 2023.
 - John has asked that this nomination be postponed until he has further investigated the role of a Trustee
- We are pleased to accept the name of Valda Dagnell to serve as alternate MfS representative from 1st January 2021 to 31st December 2023

05/21 Reports

Trustees

We have heard from trustees that over the last two months their main focus has again been around Covid 19. LMs in our area have been coping in different ways using varied models for MfW. Taunton Centre income has not suffered as much as anticipated. An away day for trustees has been planned for March to which Chris Lawson has also been invited. Trustees will meet again in February. The full report will appear on the website.

Meeting for Sufferings

We have considered Kathy Golin's Meeting for Sufferings report - 5th Dec held jointly with Young People.

She selected 4 items that she wished to highlight for WSAQM.

1. A suggestion from South London AM that there should be a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Yearly Meeting Trustees and AM Trustees
2. Yearly Meeting 2021.
3. A minute from Devon AM on divestment from fossil fuels.
4. Action on racism within the Religious Society of Friends

These are fully explored in her report which will appear on our website.

We would like to take forward her suggestion of engaging with Diversity and Inclusion at a 'Special Area Meeting'. We are aware that our way of worship is led and may not appeal to everyone and we need to be cognisant of Quaker History. We were made aware of resources available from Friends House and 'BLM Quaker Alliance Cornwall'. There is that of God in everyone, and we accept the fact of our unconscious racism. We hope that the Business Team will take this matter forward.

06/21 Life of Meeting

Burnham on Sea.

We thank Sue Hammond Lovatt for her report on the Life of Burnham on Sea Local Meeting. She has recorded the Meeting's journey with the pandemic and reflected that some of the imposed restrictions have engendered creative solutions serving to bring their community together. The full report will appear on the website

Bridgwater

We thank Bridgwater for their Life of the Meeting report. Bridgwater is a small worshipping community with 4-12 attending Meeting for Worship.

They have experimented with various ways of being together during the pandemic, but currently no longer meet at the Arts Centre. They have enjoyed readings from many sources during Meeting and made good use of Afterword.

Although Friends from the Meeting serve AM in several roles, they have found it difficult to make appointments as Friends have come to the end of their trienniums or laid down their service for other reasons. They are seeking new ways of nurturing the Meeting

They have been gladdened by newcomers to the Meeting and saddened by the loss of those who no longer maintain their connection to the Meeting, or who have died.

07/21 Tabular Statement 2020

The tabular statement was accepted by AM. We thank Judith Blaker warmly for her work on this.

08/21 Cullompton Burial Ground.

A proposed redevelopment. We have heard from Mr Mirza a land owner in Cullompton whose garden encompasses a former Quaker Burial Ground. He now wishes to develop the site and seeks guidance on the way forward if any remains are uncovered. Spiceland Central Group are minded to accept any remains. The works will be monitored by an archaeologist who may advise that any remains be simple moved to an undisturbed area of the site. We suggest a MfW be held on site before the works begin.

09/21 Care of our local Meetings and each other during ‘lockdown’.

Bridgwater

We have received from Bridgwater the minute of their meeting to discern management of eldership and oversight in Bridgwater Meeting:

21.03 We decided that the Meeting be divided into two “Shared Eldership and Oversight” groups each of roughly 9 people. The responsibilities of each group are: to meet regularly (for the time being by Zoom), to share responsibility for members’ well-being, to share fellowship, to keep in touch with those not present and to raise and discuss concerns about spiritual matters. The two groups were set with convenors for their first meetings. Other matters of the spiritual life of the meeting will be discerned at our Local Business Meetings.

We also heard that Spiceland have a circle of 5 groups of 5 or six Friends each currently meeting on zoom. It is an evolving situation.

Burnham has shared elders and overseers and are able to keep in close contact with one another.

At Taunton challenges remain with being able to include vulnerable members of the meeting under ongoing Covid restrictions.

Taunton

Taunton meeting has asked any Friends with relevant skills to form a group to increase the meeting’s presence on Social Media. We ask Friends to take this request back to their meetings.

It was suggested that Friends could be notified of any zoom MfW held by local meetings which they could also attend. Currently Spiceland is offering this. Also, for a possible regular zoom AM MfW. Advice is available on Woodbrooke’s website.*

We heard ways of contacting and reaching out to Friends who might be suffering from memory loss.

* *Here is the link to the Woodbrooke webpage giving details of the MfW which they host: [Worship | Woodbrooke](http://www.woodbrook.org.uk/worship/)
(www.woodbrook.org.uk/worship/)*

For Friends who may wish to travel further afield there is also a link on this page to the Friends World committee for Consultation (FWCC) which gives details of online worship in Europe and Middle East.

Other FWCC pages contain details of MfW elsewhere in the World: [Online Worship – Friends World Committee for Consultation \(fwcc.world\)](#)

Notices

AM Contact List 2021 –

Phil Parratt has offered to send hard copy to the AM appointees and will also send copies to LM clerks. Bearing in mind that we only have a total of 120 items, we ask LM reps to ascertain how many copies their LM will require and to let Phil know, he will then distribute them to the respective LM clerks. Phil also offered to collate a contact list particular to each LM.

From Pip Harris –

1. Friends may like to be reminded of the final two “winter discussion series” that we are holding (attached flyers). Notes from past sessions are available on request and I’m sending the details of the next Thursday’s to Burnham-O-S; Bridgwater and Minehead as perhaps the most relevant “smaller meetings”. But any Friends (particularly role holders) are welcome whether they come from a ‘smaller meeting or not.
2. I’ll be circulating details to all LMs of an informal session I’m running on Monday 1/2/21 at 11am on how to host a Zoom meeting. It’s been requested by Exeter Friends who want to get better at hosting some of their meetings outside MfW on a Sunday, and to become more familiar with the controls. Anyone is welcome to join in with this. Pip’s email pip@quaker.org.uk

10/21 Date of Next Meeting.

Our meeting closed at 12:15 - Clerks thank Friends for their attendance and support. We hope to meet again for Area Meeting on Saturday April 17th.