

**STOCKPORT MEETING**  
**LOCAL MEETING**  
**Sunday 29 December 2019**

**Minutes**

**1. Reading**

I have found in my life that from time to time when revelling in new-found joys or faced with decision, problem or grief, there must be for me a listening ear. Even if my listener says little but sheds over me a feeling of rejoicing with me, of being alongside me as I strive, of sorrowing with me in my hour of distress, then I can better appreciate or face the situation. I believe this is true for most of us. There are moments when we need one another. If this sometimes unuttered cry is answered, then truly we meet, and do not grope or slip past each other. But if two individuals share at an even deeper level from out of their own experience in their search for ultimate reality in life, then the divine in the human shines through and a new creation is born for both.

Margaret S Gibbins, 1969

Quaker Faith and Practice 21.15 has been read.

**2. Area Meeting**

Area Meeting at will be held at Marple on 25 January. Our representative(s) will be Joan Armstrong, Pat Carlisle and Dot Ainscough. One of these will report back to us.

**3. Right ordering of meetings**

We report that in 2019 we

- Made arrangements for the regular holding of public meetings for worship
- Used Advices and Queries
- Received and read the Epistle from Yearly Meeting
  
- Nurtured and sustained the spiritual life of the meeting and the pastoral care of those associated with it and welcomed newcomers. Taken a special responsibility for the children within its care and for their parents.
  
- Conducted regular meetings for church affairs, which include preparation for area meeting business
  
- Encouraged, by appointment or otherwise, an attendance of local Friends at AM
  
- Made sure that the financial needs of the meeting and the yearly meeting are properly understood by its members and that channels exist for giving in a convenient way. Accounts of any financial activities have been kept in accordance with the general rules and guidance given by the area meeting; they have been examined independent persons and reported to the AM Treasurer

- Prepared such statistics, returns and reports as are required.
- Preserved records
- Supported other local meetings to carry out their responsibilities when requested and supported the formation and nurture of new local worshipping groups and occasional meetings for worship.
- Appointed correspondents to Quaker bodies as appropriate.
- Maintained a library and encouraged the reading of Quaker publications
- Formed links with other churches and faith communities in the area and where possible jointly undertaken service in the community

Current membership statistics:4

18 female members – 6 male members – 5 female attenders – 6 male attenders

#### **4. Visit to Great Hucklow**

Margaret Moss has booked a visit to Great Hucklow from 15-19 June 2020.

#### **5. Fire marshal and fire safety**

Joan Armstrong outlined the need to appoint a fire marshal as part of our fire safety procedures. We agree that at our own meetings, including our hosting of Area Meetings, this will be the doorkeeper. For hirers, the keyholder should assume the responsibility for their group. For Friends groups meeting here, this will be the convenor. At meetings such as Area Meetings, weddings or funerals, initial announcements will include identification of the nominated fire marshal. At statement regarding the need to appoint a fire marshal will be added to information given to hirers.

#### **6. Financial overview**

Our Treasurer Phoebe Spence gave a brief overview of our financial situation. We agreed her recommendation that we sent £2,500 to Britain Yearly Meeting. She proposed that we transfer to a Co-op Business Savings Account, which would accrue a slightly higher interest rate than at present. We agree to this. Phoebe encouraged Friends to gift aid donations, as this raised £848 this year.

#### **7. Penny jar**

c.£200 was raised for Freedom from Torture. We agree that donations in the penny jar will now be given to Homes for Hope until further notice. This is an organisation which supplies shelter and rehabilitation for rough sleepers in Manchester. We agree that our next collection will be for Money for Madagascar.

**8. AOB**

- a) Pat Carlisle reminded us that we need to update our DBS registration
- b) Inter-visitation – Phoebe Spence will visit Cheadle Hulme in February.



Geoff Thomason – Clerk - 31.12.2019