

Minutes of Central England Area Quaker Meeting held by Video Conference 14th July 2020

Clerk: Helen Rowlands
Assistant clerk: Alison Ironside

Elders on duty: John Sheldon and Gill Smith (WAR)

2020.041 Meeting Electronically

Once again we have met via video conference due to the continuing coronavirus Covid-19 pandemic which prevents us from meeting in person at Warwick as planned. Some 40 Friends have been present.

During our opening period of worship we heard read section 22.50 of Quaker Faith & Practice:

Some situations which cause pain or suffering are avoidable, so part of our learning must be to analyse the situation and see if this is such a case. If it is, we must try to prevent it happening again. But perhaps the most painful situations are those that are apparently beyond our control. Another part of our learning is to recognise that there is unfairness, uncertainty, fear, loneliness and hurt in this world; learning to accept that this is the nature of the world can, of itself, be painful.

Initially we may be able to do little, bound up in an acute, self-centred pain. As we try to cope with the anger, the pain and grief that come through some unhappy experience, we can learn a lot about the less-well-articulated, darker sides of our personality. These darker aspects should not be ignored. Although we tend to equate evil with darkness, we should remember that in the plant world roots grow in the dark. Darkness (and shadows) are as much a part of the natural order as light.

S Jocelyn Burnell, 1989

2020.042: Representatives

The following meetings were represented here today:

B&R; BOU; BUL; COT; COV; EDG; HAL; KIN; SEL; SOL; STO; SUT; WAL; WAR;

2020.043: Membership Matters

Deaths

We record the deaths of the following Friends:

- John Jackson (formerly DUD) died on 29th June 2020
- Elizabeth Collins (WAR) died on the 11th July 2020, aged 88

2020.044: The Life of Our Meetings During Lockdown

We have heard very brief reports on 'how the truth prospers' in each of our meetings.

Many of our meetings have been quite adventurous in using video conferencing for meeting for worship, for maintaining social and pastoral connections, coffee mornings, meetings for business and meetings for learning. This has included children and young people's meetings. Friends are pleasantly surprised at how readily meetings have adapted.

Some meetings have chosen not to use video conferencing. We recognise that technology doesn't suit all Friends. We need to continue to be aware of the needs of the totality of our membership so as to be as inclusive as possible,

Meetings are beginning to work towards returning to our meeting houses, although this is not without complications.

We have heard that lockdown has highlighted issues to do with the sustainability of Edgbaston LM, and we will return to this later in our meeting.

We uphold all our meetings as we move towards a return to meeting for worship in person.

2020.045: Meeting for Sufferings Report

We have received a report of Meeting for Sufferings which was held by Zoom video conference on 6th June 2020. Yearly Meeting Trustees reported on decisions which had to be taken at speed at the beginning of lockdown, to close Friends House, furlough many of the staff who work there, and enable others to maintain some services by working from home. Information was given on Yearly Meeting finances, Meeting for Sufferings dates for next year, and plans for a short virtual Yearly Meeting in November to replace Yearly Meeting Gathering which had to be cancelled. The meeting heard how Friends around the country have been responding to the impact of the coronavirus, with many making positive use of digital technology to meet remotely, alongside maintaining personal worship in difficult circumstances. The pandemic has also given a sharper focus on the inequalities which exist nationally and globally, and increased awareness of the privileged circumstances in which many British Friends live.

We thank Cathy Khurana for her report.

2020.046: Possible New Area Meeting Staff Role

We have received from Trustees a proposal to employ a principal officer to assist in carrying out many of the complex and time-consuming tasks currently undertaken by some of our office-holders and committee members:

A) Proposal to employ a principal officer for the Area Meeting

At the Area Meeting in May 2019 Friends considered the request from trustees to employ an Operations Manager to support the work of trustees¹. Trustees were unable to appoint anyone to this post and recognised the full extent of the task that needs to be done to cover the work the treasurer to trustees is currently doing for both the area meeting and trustees. The recent emergency responding to COVID 19 has brought into focus the need for a full-time executive post in CEQ. The last three months has highlighted the risk to our CEQ charities. Our reliance on volunteer trustees to manage the responsibility for employees, safety of buildings, the immediate loss of income and the long-term financial uncertainty, can no longer be considered safe.

At their meeting in June trustees considered what steps needed to be taken to respond to these risks and asked a small working group to consider the way forward. This group met at the end of June and agreed that, in the light of current circumstances, there is now a real need for the Area Meeting to consider appointing a principal officer. There is a clear job to be done. The Area Meeting co-clerks are members of this group and agreed to bring this proposal to the Area Meeting in July.

In November 2019, alongside the trustees' appeal for professional support, Area Meeting received minutes from Elders and Overseers Support Group and Clerks Advisory Committee sharing a concern for our smaller local meetings². Local Meetings have been consulted but as a consequence of the Covid 19 restrictions this concern has not yet been brought to Area Meeting

for consideration. Having heard the report from Elders and Overseers Support Group it is likely that more support and closer working relationships are needed with the area meeting. This proposal to employ a full-time principal officer needs to be considered in context of the whole of the Area Meeting in 2020 and the next 5/10 years.

The image of the hub of a wheel is helpful to see how a principal officer could assist the sharing of knowledge between LMs; co-ordinating property/financial/employment services across the AM; lettings services; preferred suppliers etc. These various functions and their relationship to AM co-clerks, clerk to trustees, treasurer to trustees AM treasurer and local meetings will need to be carefully thought through, as will the exact job title. However, it will be a very practical way to offer support to Friends in LMs in the longer term.

To support this new post the Area Meeting will need to find an additional £40,000 in the budget for 2021. In 2020 £20,000 is budgeted for the Operations Manager post and this year we have a balanced budget. At present trustees' finance committee are monitoring the costs of the lockdown and this will become clearer as we move into the second half of the year. We know that there will be no gift from Priory Rooms this year and this will affect our budgeting for 2021 in the autumn. If Area Meeting prioritises this proposal to support the work of trustees this will be taken into account when the 2021 budget is drawn up and brought to Area Meeting in November.

Trustees are asking Area Meeting to support this change in direction and that we continue to work on this proposal to recruit a full-time principal officer to work across the Area Meeting.

From the trustees working group Gill Smith (WAR), Huw Davies (HAL), Sue Thompson (COT), Judith Jenner (COT) with AM co-clerks Alison Ironside and Helen Rowlands.

29th June 2020

Notes:

¹ Area Meeting minute 2019.047: Trustee Matters

Judith Jenner, clerk to trustees, has laid before us the proposal by trustees to employ someone to support the day to day work of our charity and ensure that we are compliant with the legal requirements laid upon us. Many tasks carried out by trustees and service committees could be done by such an employee, the key criterion for such a role being anything that a suitably qualified person could manage that does not require making policy decisions. Much of the work presently covered by the treasurer to trustees also falls into this category; where there are grey areas the employee could seek guidance in how to proceed.

We agree in principle to using a paid professional and ask trustees to investigate the practical considerations of such a venture and report back to a future area meeting.

² Area Meeting minute 2019.106: Minutes Received

(Minute is quoted in full below).

We have also received from the Area Meeting Co-clerks a briefing paper on responses received to date following our minute 2019.106:

B) The Life of our Area Meeting - an update from the AM Clerks

This paper is provided to keep Friends up-to-date with developments and to provide further background for the consideration of a possible new area meeting staff post. Whilst we are not

taking this as a stand-alone item for discussion in July, we think it may be helpful for Friends to be aware of responses received so far. If any other meetings are in a position to contribute we will be happy to receive their responses in due course. The prohibition on meeting in person is serving to intensify issues in some quarters as well as giving us new experiences and eliciting creative responses.

At area meeting in November 2019, we made the following minute:

2019.106 Minutes Received

We have received minutes from two of our Area Meeting committees asking for a renewed consideration of our Local Meetings, as several are small and struggle to continue, particularly finding it difficult to appoint Friends to roles and responsibilities:

1. Minute received from Elders and Overseers Support Group, 8.10.201

2019.30 - E&OSG are aware that many of our small Meetings across the area are struggling. We feel that a review is due; we ask AM to look at imaginative ways of using our Meeting Houses differently and working together more collaboratively.

2. Minute received from Clerks Advisory Committee

CAC2019/16 Minute from AM elders & overseers support group

We have heard minute 2019/30 from the E&O support group about smaller meetings in our AM. We also note the invitation from Britain YM to all area meetings to put in an expression of interest for a local development (formerly vibrancy) worker in our area who could provide meeting centred support.

We have heard that several meetings in our AM are struggling with low numbers, and in particular Edgbaston.

As an area meeting we may have enough funds to contribute towards our own local development worker.

We recommend that this goes on to the November agenda. We ask the clerk to send this minute to the clerk of trustees [Judith Jenner] and clerk of AM trustees finance committee [Robert Morris].

Hilary Johnson from Elders and Overseers Support Group has spoken to this matter and raised some inter-related issues of nurturing and growing Quakerism through our meetings and associated buildings. We are conscious that the matter of smaller or struggling meetings is a recurring concern in our Area Meeting.

We ask all our Local Meetings to consider some of the ideas raised today: getting together in a different way, for example holding semi-programmed Meetings for Worship; holding Meeting for Worship at different times or on different days; local Meetings might identify and advertise their prime concern.

We want to hear from every Local Meeting and will return to this matter; we ask our Local Meetings to send a minute to the AM clerks by the end of March.

We ask the clerks to submit an expression of interest to BYM for a Local Development Worker for the Area Meeting.

We had expected to return to this matter in March, but that meeting was cancelled due to the national lockdown in response to the Covid-19 virus. It has not seemed right to put a matter requiring this

depth and quality of discernment back on the agenda while we were getting used to holding virtual Area Meetings.

Meanwhile, five Local Meetings and our Trustee body managed to send in minutes before the lockdown, and these are attached at the end of this document.

An application was made for a Vibrancy Worker to be attached to our area. The scheme has a five-year time scale, aiming to have a worker available in every area meeting by the end of that time. We have been informed that we will not have a worker assigned to our AM until later in the project, as priority is being given to meetings at greater distance from the existing Quaker 'centres of gravity' of Friends House and Woodbrooke.

Minutes received from LMs

Cotteridge LM

2020/12 Cotteridge Meeting response to Area Meeting's minute 2019.106:

"... We ask all our Local Meetings to consider some of the ideas raised today: getting together in a different way...; holding Meeting for Worship at different times or on different days; Local Meeting might identify and advertise their prime concern."

Cotteridge Meeting has spent time as individuals and collectively considering our response to this minute from Area Meeting. A threshing meeting was held in early February which was an all age event, widely advertised so as to encourage as many as possible to give their views. We have been grateful to have had this chance to think about how Cotteridge Meeting meets together as well as how we can link up with other meetings locally. Notes and individual responses to this have been filed with these minutes.

We heard from our children about their enjoyment of the 'Age 10+' events held monthly around the different meetings in our Area Meeting. We would be keen for older Friends in the Area Meeting to get together in different ways and we shared ideas such as social events, sharing time together in worship, opportunities for learning and charity events which would be widely advertised to other meetings.

We had many ideas for how worship could be held differently: could we provide opportunities to worship together on a weekday afternoon, this could be a chance to introduce our silent worship to a wider community, possibly with the opportunity to join together for food afterwards. We appreciate other elements in our own worship such as singing, all age or programmed worship.

We are aware that we are one of the larger meeting communities in our Area Meeting. We would be willing to work together with other local meetings to think more creatively about how we complete some of our practical roles such as book-keeping, children & youth work and safeguarding. We could also consider using our funds to pay people to support this work.

We are aware that we need to be more outward facing. Our process of engaging with this issue has brought up a number of additional issues:

- We believe that our regular Children's Meeting is part of how we maintain our vibrancy. How can we ensure we are able to welcome children and their parents to become part of the meeting community?
- How can we support attenders to find out more about Quakers? Can this be a role for local meetings to join together?
- How can we engage more fully with our local community? What local initiatives should the Quaker voice be part of? Should this be at a Cotteridge Meeting level or together with other local meetings?

Throughout our thinking we are aware of our own limitations. We should work within what is possible. We are aware of many of our own subgroups and committees struggling to fulfil commitments and some have vacancies. Members and Attenders are already stretched, and we should be realistic about what we can manage and who will organise it.

We look forward to further conversations with our neighbouring meetings and within the Area Meeting more widely.

Hall Green LM

2020/11 Discussion of paper prepared by Hilary Johnson

Following minute 2020/03, the paper produced by Hilary Johnson has been circulated to members and attenders and been made available after MfW. Elders have discussed this paper and have produced the following minute.

Suggestions from Hilary Johnson re working together: We have read and discussed these interesting suggestions. However, we feel that we should be able to clearly articulate our Meeting for Worship (and what it means to us) and also have a clearer understanding of our Quaker identity before deciding which outreach option to pursue. We see a distinction between raising awareness of Quakers among other faiths and seeking to bring more people into the Religious Society of Friends'.

After the discussion at Business Meeting today, we feel that our Meeting House is a valuable community resource which is clearly identified as Quaker. We realise that both the Meeting and ourselves have particular gifts which we could develop. We recognise that most people who come to a Quaker Meeting for Worship particularly value the silence which is almost unique to Quakers but outside the Meeting for Worship and in the wider world we need to be more audible.

We would welcome the possibility that the Area Meeting employs a 'vibrancy' worker and we will encourage our members to support the 'Drop-in Anytime' events if organised at Edgbaston Meeting.

We will share this minute with members and attenders who were not present and also ask the Co-Clerk to send it to the Area Meeting Clerks.

Bob Morris,
Co-Clerk Hall Green LM

Selly Oak LM

SEL2019/61 Small Meetings / South Birmingham Meetings

We record this as a holding Minute and look forward to returning to it at February Local Business Meeting.

We have experimented with holding semi-programmed Meetings for Worship, holding Meeting for Worship at different times on a Sunday this year and have found them to be very positive and helpful for a wide range of Friends and Attenders in our Meeting. We are planning to continue to experiment and use these alternative formats in 2020.

As a first step towards working more closely together with other South Birmingham Meetings we plan to approach Bournville Meeting around having a single joint Events Diary. We hope that this will lead to further steps towards the other local Meetings.

SEL 2020/06 Small Meetings/South Birmingham Meetings/Collaboration and Experiment.
(SEL2019/61) (CEAQM2019.106)

We ask Elder/Overseers to arrange some small group discussions during Feb and March which will hopefully feed into our response to the AM request for the AM in April. This will be an agenda item in our March Local Meeting for Business. (This was not taken due to lockdown.)

Stourbridge LM

19/20 Concern for smaller Meetings.

Area Meeting asks us to respond following concerns raised by the Elders & Overseers Support Group and Clerks Advisory Group about smaller meetings in our AM. Several meetings in our AM are struggling with low numbers, particularly in finding Friends to fill Quaker roles. Should Area Meeting take up the invitation from Britain YM for area meetings to put in an expression of interest for a local development worker in our area who could provide meeting-centred support? As an Area Meeting we may have enough funds to contribute towards our own local development worker.

Area Meeting would like to hear from every Local Meeting before it returns to this matter; it asks them to consider some of the ideas raised in November: getting together in a different way, for example holding semi-programmed Meetings for Worship; holding Meeting for Worship at different times or on different days; local Meetings might identify and advertise concerns and activities which give their Meeting its special character. It asks all the Local Meetings to send a minute to the AM clerks by the end of March.

Stourbridge Meeting is not in a good position geographically to give direct support to the smaller meetings in Area Meeting, apart from Woodlands Meeting for Worship and possibly Walsall. We will share our outreach programme with neighbouring meetings in the hope it will be useful to them. We note the suggestions for doing Meeting for Worship in different ways, but are not minded to take them further for ourselves at present.

We encourage Area Meeting to express an interest in having a Local Development Worker and hope it will offer to contribute to the costs of Britain Yearly Meeting.

We will send this minute to Area Meeting.

Warwick LM

Minute 20/07 Concern re South Birmingham Meetings

We have received a minute from Area Meeting, asking us to send a minute by the end of March, regarding a concern that several smaller meetings in our Area Meeting, especially in South Birmingham, are struggling to keep going. We have also received a document from Hilary Johnson, of Cotteridge Meeting, outlining her ideas for support and regeneration for these meetings and also from Ruth Gaston, of Warwick Meeting. We applaud the energy and enthusiasm of both these Friends.

We are also asked to respond to the idea of applying for a local development worker in our area.

This matter created considerable discussion.

We heard from Jane Holt, a member of the Elders' and Overseers' Support Group, that we are encouraged to work collaboratively with meetings local to us, as could South Birmingham meetings, in order to become more of what we already are and to support one another practically.

We agree that this is a matter of concern and support the idea of applying for a local development worker who might work to support smaller meetings that are struggling in particular, but not excluding other meetings.

Our Friend, Ruth Gaston, is particularly impassioned to support the South Birmingham Meetings. We very much recommend her to Area Meeting as a Friend of passion and vision who has tested and carried her vision for five years and who is completely open to help and support the South Birmingham Meetings in whatever way she can.

We therefore suggest that a group is formed comprising Hilary Johnson, Ruth Gaston and other Friends. This is the time to move forward.

We ask our Clerk to forward this minute to Area Meeting

AM trustees meeting on 5th March 2020

T2020.02H Working more collaboratively between local meetings

In November Area Meeting received minutes from the Elders & Overseers Support Group and the Clerks Advisory Committee expressing concern for struggling Local Meetings. AM minute 2019.106 asked that local meetings should consider this and send their minutes to AM before the end of March. Link trustees are in contact with local meetings and trustees considered the question of working together more collaboratively from this perspective. We suggest:

- Sharing staff between local meetings who are responsible for bookings/caretaking/cleaning,
- Advice on premises matters
- A Vibrancy Worker
- Having a line manager to manage a number of employees at different local meetings
- Joint study groups and events with other local meetings.

We will send this minute to the Area Meeting co-clerks.

Area Meeting Clerks

30.06.2020

Note: Since this paper was circulated, we have also received the following minute from **Bournville LM**

2020.10 Initiative to increase collaboration between the South Birmingham Local Quaker Meetings [Minute 2020.04 refers]

Several Bournville Friends attended a meeting on 27 January, initiated by the Elders & Overseers Support group, which discussed this topic. CEQ AM has requested a minute from local meetings with suggestions. It was felt that joining with other local meetings for events would enhance the Quaker community, particularly if smaller meetings are included.

Friends could also look regularly at the CEQ website, receive the newsfeed, and routinely add events. We encourage Friends to attend other local meetings occasionally. Each local meeting has started to share their forthcoming events via emails with the clerks and other appropriate role-holders, so events can be publicised during notices or by email.

We agree to send this minute to CEQ AM clerks and Barbara Groombridge, clerk of AM communications committee.

Following circulation of the agenda and papers for today's meeting, we have received the following minute from **Stourbridge LM**:

*34/20 (b) **Proposed appointment of AM Principal Officer.** Trustees have proposed to Area Meeting that it should appoint a full-time Quaker staff member to represent it to the public (as the Recording Clerk does for the Yearly Meeting), and assist with the demands on our treasurers' team, our trustees, clerks and committees. If AM agrees, the next step will be to determine the job description, salary and terms of service. We encourage Area Meeting to agree to this suggestion. We will send this minute to Area Meeting.*

We have considered carefully the proposal to employ a new staff member.

We recognise the vulnerabilities to the meeting which result from the substantial workloads being carried by a small number of Friends giving their time in a voluntary capacity.

We encourage Trustees to go ahead with developing a detailed proposal for a new staff post, and to return to us when they are ready.

The role needs to be clearly defined, and of manageable proportions. We should not hesitate to seek professional expertise in defining the role and drawing up the job description. There is a right balance to be sought of executive functions in relation to our Quaker decision-making processes. We recognise that there will still be a need for active involvement from many Friends.

We are excited by the possibilities, which a new role will open up.

2020.047: Future of Edgbaston Local Meeting

We have received the following letter from members of Edgbaston Meeting:

To: the Clerks of C.E.A.M. from the four current post-holders at Edgbaston Local Meeting (E.L.M.):

- Holly Timmermans (Elder)
- Phillip O'Shea (Overseer)
- Janet Wood (Overseer)
- Greg Coombs (Convenor of Premises Committee)

After much heart-searching both individually and collectively, the four of us named above feel that we have to accept that we can no longer meet the needs of the people who come to Edgbaston Meeting – or the demands of the building – now listed – as they should be met. The closure of the Meeting House because of lockdown has given us the time and space to reflect on our current situation and to look back over the past 10 or so years of the Meeting's life; the outcome is that we realize that we must face the fact that, in spite of the more than generous support and commitment of individuals who have moved into the meeting to take up posts, and of groups set up by C.E.A.M. to help us, our position is still exactly what it was 10 or so years ago when Simon Grey, our then clerk, first raised the issue with C.E.A.M., i.e. we simply do not have enough people able to take on the posts of responsibility necessary to sustain the spiritual and practical life of the meeting.

In case this sounds rather depressing, we should perhaps say that we all feel that this is a potentially positive situation, and that, with the support and guidance of C.E.A.M., we shall be led to discern a creative - but realistic - way forward for E.L.M.

We lay this matter before the A.M., hoping to discuss it in depth with them as soon as can reasonably be arranged, and to reach a mutually acceptable decision by the end of this calendar year.

In friendship,

Janet P. Wood
on behalf of all 4 post-holders, 30th June 2020

We recognise and are thankful for the efforts which have been made by many Friends over many years to support and sustain Edgbaston Meeting, and we respect the judgment reached by the four post-holders - we are grateful that they have had the courage to write this letter. We appreciate the diversity and the distinctive qualities which the meeting has brought to this Area Meeting, and uphold in love all those who currently worship at Edgbaston.

We refer this matter jointly to Elders and Overseers Support Group and to Area Meeting Trustees (and in particular their Property Committee), asking them to liaise with one another and with Edgbaston Friends to explore possible ways forward. They might wish to form a small joint working group to undertake this task. Matters to be considered might include, but need not be restricted to:

- laying the LM down and supporting those who wish to participate in other meetings
- continuing a worshipping group at Edgbaston under the care of another LM and without responsibility for the building
- considering a strategy for the building, whether it should continue primarily as a place of worship with additional lettings; become an investment property for the AM; be used to support social witness or another need of the AM; or whether it could or should be sold to realise capital
- investigating what interest there might realistically be from potential tenants or purchasers

The group should review and take account of the quite detailed work which has been done on these matters in the past.

We note the desire for a resolution for the meeting by the end of the year, and therefore ask for a progress report to be brought to our October meeting.

2020.048: Higher Education Chaplaincy: minute received from Warwick LM

Rob Hooper of Warwick Meeting wishes to lay down the role he has taken supporting a regular campus meeting for worship at the University of Warwick. We have received the following minute from Warwick Meeting:

Minute 20/32 Warwick University Meeting

We thank our Friend Rob Hooper for taking on this role, and for continuing to support it so ably.

We support the idea that this should be an Area Meeting appointment, and ask them to consider the appointment of a chaplain to the University of Warwick, which may be best considered within a review of the need for chaplains across universities in the Area Meeting.

As a temporary measure, the elders' email will be made available to the Chaplaincy Principal Minister at the University of Warwick, to fulfil the role of Faith Advisor, which Rob Hooper is happy to support until the end of 2020.

We continue to support the proposal of advertising a Quaker presence at the University of Warwick in the Friend.

We ask our clerk to forward this minute to Area Meeting.

We ask our Nominations Committee to approach Friends with experience or interest in Higher Education chaplaincy to form a small ad hoc working group to undertake such a review. They should liaise with Rob Hooper and/or Warwick Meeting, and also with Coventry Meeting who are close to Warwick University. The group is asked to explore questions such as:

- What is the need for chaplains in the Higher Education institutions in our area?
- Is this a form of service/outreach/witness to which Friends feel a calling?

- Should any appointments be made by AM or by the LM(s) most close to the particular institution?
- Should AM aim to provide chaplains to all institutions or should appointments only be made when there are individuals who feel called to the role in a specific place? This may be affected by the different structures in place in each college or university.

The group may want to draw on the experience of BYM's chaplaincy group. At a later stage it may also be useful to consider whether and how higher education chaplaincy might relate to the other forms of chaplaincy which members of our AM are involved in, and how it relates to our ecumenical and inter-faith witness as a whole.

We ask the working group to report back to AM when they are ready.

2020.049: Nominations and Appointments

Nominations Committee has brought us the following names:

- To visit Carolyn Arber (COT) on her journey into membership: Roderick Keefe (COT) and Gillian Waddilove (COV)
- To serve as AM Children's Advocate: Fiona Campbell (COT) from Sept 2020 to Aug 2023
- To serve on Peace Hub Management Committee: Billie-Jo Dearden (STO) from July 2020 to June 2023
- To serve on Peace Committee: Mary Mather (WAL) from Sept 2020 to August 2023
- To serve as Priory Rooms Director: Jim Green (WAL) from July 2020 to June 2024
- To serve on Susanna Cole and Others: Anne Ullathorne (COT) from Dec 2020 to Nov 2023 and John Kimberley (BUL) from July 2020 to June 2023

These names being acceptable, we appoint the named Friends accordingly and ask the Area Meeting Secretary to inform them.

The following Friends have requested release from service:

- Keith Hitchcock (SUT) as an Elder/Overseer from the end of December 2020.
- Helen Rowlands (COT) as an Area Meeting co-clerk with effect from the end of our September meeting; and with immediate effect as a Director of the Priory Rooms, an Area Meeting Elder and a member of Area Meeting Nominations Committee
- Janet Hilken (STO) as an Area Meeting Trustee.

We release these Friends accordingly, and give thanks for their service. We ask the Area Meeting Secretary to inform them.

2020.050 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled to take place on Saturday September 12th at 2pm at Barnt Green Meeting House. The calling letter for that meeting will inform Friends about the format to be used, whether in person or virtual, or a mix of the two.

Signed:



Helen Rowlands (Clerk this time)