

Cymdeithas Grefyddol y  
Cyfeillion (Crynwyr)  
yng Nghymru a'r Gororau

**Cymar**

The Religious Society of Friends  
(Quakers) in Wales and the  
Marches



**Charitable Incorporated Organisation**

Registered charity number: 1207878



## **CYMAR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November 2024 11.00 - 4.00**

**Hybrid Meeting online and in person at Hereford Quaker Meeting House  
21 King Street, HEREFORD HR4 9BX**

### **MINUTES**

- Cymar AGM 24/1    Opening Worship  
QF&P 10.04 was read to us during opening worship
- Cymar AGM 24/2    Friends Attending  
At the start of our meeting today there are 67 Friends attending, 51 in person in Hereford and 16 online. Each of the constituent bodies of Cymar has at least two representatives present
- Cymar AGM 24/3    Elders for the meeting  
We appoint Colin Brown (SMAQM) and Ann Harris (NWAM) as elders in Hereford and Sue Shreeve (MWAM) as elder online
- Cymar AGM 24/4    Trustees Annual Report  
We have received the trustees' Annual Report for 2024. Jeremy Brignell-Thorp introduced the report; Tricia Bridgwater spoke to the finance section. Trustees will ensure that final financial forms are provided in both Welsh and English in future. It was clarified that legal fees had largely been covered by BYM. Transfer of assets is expected to be complete by the end of 2024.  
Erica Thomas has updated us on the property issues; and on safeguarding.  
We thank our trustees for the enormous amount of work that has brought us to this point. We also join the trustees in thanking all those involved in the preliminary work to form Cymar. We hope that the path ahead will

not be too rock-strewn, and that the transfer of the existing charities progresses smoothly. We hold trustees in the Light as they take these final steps.

Cymar AGM 24/5 Budget

We have considered the budget for 2025 presented by Trustees and approve it.

Cymar AGM 24/6 Policies

We received the following policies and procedures, all of which we agree to adopt:

- Data Protection and Privacy
- Employment
- Environment and Sustainability
- Equality and Inclusion
- Health, Safety and Risk Management
- Right Keeping of Records/Archiving
- Safeguarding.

We note that all Area Meetings should identify one or two Deputy Safeguarding Coordinators, and that all Local Meetings need someone to act as the Safeguarding contact for that meeting. BYM will cover the cost of translation of all safeguarding documents.

We note that Trustees, together with the Finance Committee, are working to develop a finance policy and financial procedures. The Finance Committee will also develop a reserves policy for Cymar and its meetings over the next few months. These policies will be shared with all treasurers once finalised.

Cymar AGM 24/7 Appointment of Auditor

Trustees bring forward the name of Godfrey Wilson Ltd, of 5th Floor, Mariner House, 62 Prince Street, BRISTOL BS1 4QD to be appointed as Auditor for the Financial Years 2024 and 2025. This name being acceptable we appoint Godfrey Wilson Ltd

Cymar AGM 24/8 Nominations Report & Nominations Committee Terms of Reference

Zelie Gross explained how the CCQW nominations group was temporarily appointed to serve Cymar as well as CCQW. We thank the

group for carrying out this challenging task. There is an ongoing need to lighten the burden of trustees, and to find more names to bring forward.

The terms of reference for the Cymar Nominations Committee have been brought to the meeting, and we formally adopt them.

The following Friends were suggested by the Cymar Nominations Committee and co-opted as trustees during the course of the year to serve until this Annual General Meeting of Cymar in 2024.

5<sup>th</sup> December 2023 – Erica Thomas (South Wales AM)

1<sup>st</sup> February 2024 – Voirrey Costain-Williams and Linda Murray Hales (both Southern Marches AQM)

We thank Erica, Voirrey and Linda for their service as co-opted trustees. We release Voirrey and Linda from service as was agreed, and are very pleased that Erica is willing to continue to serve as a trustee for another two years.

Nominations bring forward the names of:

Tricia Bridgewater (NWAM) to serve as Treasurer from AGM 2024 to AGM 2027

Nick Clapp (SMAQM) to serve as Trustee from AGM 2024 to AGM 2027

Erica Thomas (SWAM) to serve as Trustee from AGM 2024 to AGM 2026

Gwyneth Hewitson (NWAM) to serve as Trustee from AGM 2024 to AGM 2025

Jeff Beatty (SMAQM) to serve as Trustee from AGM 2024 to AGM 2025

Iona Lyons (SWAM) to serve as Trustee from AGM 2024 to AGM 2025

It was noted that Jeremy Brignell-Thorp (MWAM) does not need re-appointment because the original appointment in 2023 was through to 2027

These names being acceptable the Friends named are appointed from the close of this meeting. We note that trustees are able to co-opt to their number between general meetings.

Cymar AGM 24/9 Appointment of Clerk to Trustees

Trustees bring forward the name of Erica Thomas as Clerk to Trustees for two years and Jeremy Brignell-Thorp as Assistant Clerk for two years.

These names being acceptable the Friends named are appointed from the close of this meeting until the close of the AGM 2026

Cymar AGM 24/10 Date of AGM 2025

Trustees have brought forward the date of 20 September 2025 for the next AGM, with the venue yet to be discerned. We agree to this date.

Cymar AGM 24/11 Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting addressed the meeting on The Future of Quakerism.

He described Cymar as trail-blazing, developing a new way of working for Quakerism. We are being carefully observed by other regions of the UK.

He posed the question “Do Quakers want to survive or do we want to thrive?” Not declining in numbers is not the same as thriving. The world beyond Quakerism is also changing and may move towards a more caring and sharing society, or its opposite. But one thing we can say with certainty is that in thirty years’ time there will be many people who want to come together to feel connected in a spiritual way, and Quakers can be part of this. We can provide a space where people can feel connected, both with God and each other.

We need to get around our aversion to outreach. And we need to find new language about who and what we are. We also need to tackle our lack of diversity. We are incomplete without those who need to be with us. Most people currently going to Quaker meetings first came along because someone took them to a Meeting for Worship. All it would take to reverse our decline in numbers is for one new person to join each local meeting each year. The people that could bring them along are us.

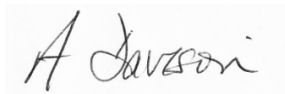
We are already seeing the green shoots of how we can do things differently, and Cymar is one of these shoots. Others include the laying down of Meeting for Sufferings, bringing us all closer in a continuing Yearly Meeting; new online meetings; Meetings for Worship in new times and places; a new Book of Discipline under preparation.

There are many ways that the future of Quakerism is positive, but we have to be prepared to change so that we are welcoming to the people that need us.

Cymar AGM 24/12 Worship Sharing and Final Minute

Today we came together from five different Quaker groupings. We go forward as a new organisation, with the hope that each of our Area Meetings and CCQW will find fresh energy and the means to thrive. Our new trustees are taking a burden off our shoulders, and we step out on a new path.

Ann Davison, co-clerk SMAQM

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A Davison". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A'.