

## MEETING FOR SUFFERINGS 4 DECEMBER (On Zoom)

An enjoyable and useful experience, helped by an optional pre MfS event on Tuesday evening, giving the opportunity for discussion of many of the issues in Breakout Rooms.

As usual, the Agenda and papers, then Minutes are available for all to see on [www.quaker.org.uk](http://www.quaker.org.uk) by following the links to Meeting for Sufferings. As John Bourton and myself already announced, we would welcome an e mail participation group of interested Friends.

The poem by Ellen Bass was an inspiring/inspired start to proceedings during Opening Worship:-

### THE WORLD HAS NEED OF YOU

I can hardly imagine it  
As I walk to the lighthouse, feeling the ancient  
Prayer of my arms swinging  
In counterpoint to my feet  
Here I am, suspended  
Between the sidewalk and twilight  
The sky dimming so fast it seems alive.  
What if you felt the invisible  
Tug between you and everything?  
A boy on a bicycle rides by,  
his white shirt open, flaring  
behind him like wings.  
It's a hard time to be human. We know too much  
and too little. Does the breeze need us?  
The cliffs? The gulls?  
If you've managed to do one good thing,  
the ocean doesn't care.  
But when Newton's apple fell toward the earth,  
The earth, ever so slightly, fell  
Toward the apple as well

## BOOK OF DISCIPLINE REVISION COMMITTEE (BODRC)

The Report from Convenors Rosie Carnall and Catherine Brewer was a joy to listen to. They have been meeting mainly on Zoom for obvious reasons. It was pointed out it would be a long job as the last time this mammoth task was undertaken it took 8-10 years and so far they have only looked at a quarter of it. So, there will be plenty of time for in-person discernment. Some draft content should be available for consultation in the early months of 2022 in a series of Workshops, including one for MfS. One of the challenges they shared was the question of God language and what do we need to use to describe Quaker spiritual experience. The role of BODRC is to describe our Quaker faith and practice, not to change it and to reflect its diversity and its unity.

## REPORT FROM COP26

There was a moving report from Paul Parker and Oliver Waterhouse. They felt the Country Negotiators didn't have a lot of time for stepping outside and taking a measured look. There was good networking between Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) – who had been busily preparing for this for the previous 8 years – Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW) and Glasgow Friends. If we look at what's politically possible there seemed to be quite a lot of movement on Loss and Damage and there seems to be real possibility to push forward to next Summit in Egypt.

The disappointing part comes from “Are we doing enough?” NO

#### THE TRUSTEES’ REPORT

Is always interesting. They last met in November. Finances for 2021n are holding up but still not enough. The Quiet Company have only just got going again, which has a serious effect on BYM income. But balance is still expected to be achieved in 2023. Many Friends and AMs have responded to requests for increased contributions, but we were ASKED TO ENCOURAGE FRIENDS INDIVIDUALLY AND AS AMs to give even more to BYM (though recognising the challenges being faced as a result of the pandemic) to enable important central work to go on. The Quiet Company have been recruiting former prisoners and are getting some funding for this from The Home Office.

The recruitment of Local Development Workers is continuing and will be completed in 2023. The Simple Structures Project is at a stage which is quite complicated! And it is hoped that recommendations will be brought forward in the first half of next year.

We closed with Worship at 4pm, many of us feeling fulfilled, but relieved we didn’t have long journeys to negotiate from laptops/I pads to our sofas.