



## Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024 at 121 George Street

<b>Present</b>	Convener	Andrew McLellan	
	Vice-Convener	Ian Alexander	
	Secretary	Carol Miller	
	Minutes Secretary	Jacky Harkness	
	Members	Maureen Jack	Tom Watson
		Alison Jack	Val Brown
		Douglas Simpson	Trish Archibald
		Jamie Erskine	David Coulter
	Faith Action	Kenny Roger	Rebecca McGonigle
	Ministers	Rev Dr Stewart Gillan	Rev Muriel Pearson

	Item	Comments	Action
1	Opening	Andrew welcomed everyone present and started the meeting with a lesson and a prayer. Andrew extended a particular welcome to Val Brown, who was attending her first Friends' Committee Meeting and congratulated her on her appointment as Head of Scotland (Christian Aid). Andrew also congratulated Ian Alexander on his Doctorate and welcomed him as the new Vice-Convener, and Trish Archibald on the success of her completion of probation in the ministry.	
2	Apologies	Apologies were received from Calum MacSween.	
3	Minutes	The Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 8 <sup>th</sup> April 2024 had been pre-circulated and were agreed by the Committee. There was one amendment on page 2: It was a lobby of Parliament in which Maureen participated rather than a protest. There were no matters arising from the Minutes.	Secretary
4	Convener's Update	i) Andrew was invited by the Royal Scots Club to give a talk on 17 <sup>th</sup> June. Approximately 60 people were in attendance and there was particular interest in the history of St Andrew's Jerusalem. 3 people joined The Friends membership.  ii) The presentation of The Tinderbox film was a successful shared event with Christian Aid. It is hoped this new relationship between The Friends and Christian Aid will continue to be developed.	

		<p>iii) A prayer was said for those known members of The Friends who have died the past year. Their names were read out: Brigadier Lowen, Very Rev Prof Alan Main, Elizabeth Baxter, Sir James Stirling, Mrs JS Rankine, Mrs Dorward.</p> <p>iv) The Jewish Telegraph had criticised a prayer Andrew wrote and posted on The Friends' Facebook page because he did not pray for the Israeli hostages. Andrew wrote back sympathetically to Colin Grant and the matter is now considered closed.</p> <p>v) Andrew is preaching at Embrace the Middle East Glasgow on 5<sup>th</sup> October at 2pm.</p> <p>vi) The Retired Ministers Association of Scotland is meeting on 4th November and have invited Andrew to give a presentation on The Friends. Muriel is requested to send Andrew any photos of former ministers of Tiberias.</p> <p>vii) A meeting with Brigadier Jody Davies has been scheduled for 11am on 30<sup>th</sup> October. Andrew, Jamie and Jacky are able to attend and David is also requested to confirm whether or not he is available.</p>	<p>Muriel</p> <p>David</p>
5	Ministers' Updates	<p><u>Muriel</u> With travel so restricted, it is difficult to visit partners. Worship is in person with a zoom link, but the church and the hotel are very quiet. With the conflict escalating, contingency plans have been made should the FCDO change its advice. Work is progressing on the design of the Galilee Garden in the grounds of the church and the proposal will be presented to the Trustee meeting on 10th October. The Committee agreed it is a very attractive design and would enhance the church's setting.</p> <p><u>Stewart</u> Jerusalem feels relatively safe and the services at St Andrew's are now in person, with numbers of worshippers slowly increasing. The funds donated by The Friends have all been disbursed and Stewart thanked The Friends for their continued support.</p>	

		<p>The new version of the St Andrew's (Jerusalem and Tiberias) website is almost finished and is awaiting approval by the Israel Palestine Committee before it can go live.</p> <p>Andrew suggested The Friends should have a conversation with the Israel Palestine Committee and has offered to write to the Convener. Maureen has invited him to the Dunblane event.</p> <p>In response to his request, Rebecca agreed to share the link to the remit of the Israel Palestine Committee. It is attached <a href="#">here</a> (on page 78).</p>	Andrew
6	AGMs	<p>The minutes of the 2024 AGM were circulated before the meeting.</p> <p>The date of the 2025 AGM is Friday 16<sup>th</sup> May, in St Cuthbert's.</p>	Info for all
7	Finance	<p>The statement of accounts was circulated before the meeting and there were no questions arising. There will be no spending on scholarships for the foreseeable future, so it was suggested that alternatives could be explored, for example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Essay prize</li> <li>• A reverse scholarship, with a scholar coming to Scotland</li> <li>• Arrange events with partners from Palestine and Israel</li> </ul> <p>With no strategy for the current situation, it was requested that a round-robin email is circulated between Committee Members, reflecting ideas. Where are we now? What is the immediate future of The Friends and its finances? Where are we going? Deadline is 31<sup>st</sup> October.</p> <p>The Committee agreed that an immediate payment of £2,000 would be made to the Ministers, to be used at their discretion for humanitarian assistance. A further sum of £2000 would be paid in the New Year.</p> <p>There is likely to be an increased demand for funds once the conflict is over and now is a good time for people to make an extra donation. Tom, Muriel and Stewart are requested to draft a letter to Members, giving the reasons for donating and emphasising the things we can do with the funds.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Treasurer</p> <p>Tom Muriel Stewart</p>

		It is requested Calum includes in the Newsletter a report on how the donations are spent. Muriel and Stewart will supply details.	Calum Muriel Stewart
8	Communications	<p><u>Facebook</u> The report was pre-circulated. It was agreed that the conflict in Lebanon should not be posted on Facebook. A third administrator is needed. Someone who is prepared to post and who has the relevant contacts and information. It was suggested an appeal is made to the membership in the next newsletter.</p> <p><u>Newsletter</u> Andrew thanked Calum for the recent excellent Newsletter for which many compliments have been received. Calum has offered to produce a one-off special newsletter about Tabeetha School. The Committee agreed to support this on a majority vote.</p>	Maureen Calum  Calum
9	Membership	<p>Douglas has used many different avenues to increase the membership, to various degrees of success, but the best way is by personal contact. He will now explore restoring our links with those churches which sponsored chairs in St Andrew's Jerusalem.</p>	Douglas
10	HIRN	<p>A report was pre-circulated. The Hebron International Resource Network event is a joint venture between The Friends and Dunblane Cathedral on 17<sup>th</sup> October at Dunblane Cathedral. Publicity has been circulated extensively.</p> <p>The Committee agreed a donation of £100 to HIRN. Maureen will add the £100 to the collection on the day, give the total to Amos Trust (who will make a payment to HIRN) and The Friends will reimburse Maureen. It was agreed that expenses for gifts to the speaker and travel expenses between Dunblane and Edinburgh will be covered by The Friends.</p>	Treasurer Maureen
11	CWGC	A new member of The Friends, Sandra Horne, is pursuing her interest in the CWGC and is particularly interested in the graves in Gaza. She would appreciate any update on the situation.	

12	Committee Members	Andrew requested possible new names for the Committee, in particular those who will bring something to the Committee. If any Members no longer wish to be on the Committee, please let Andrew know.	All
13	St Andrew's Day Service	<p><b>Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> November at 2.00pm.</b> The arrangements are:</p> <p><b>Preacher</b> – Very Rev Sally Foster-Fulton – confirmed</p> <p><b>Readers</b> – two readers have been asked, awaiting confirmation</p> <p><b>Choir</b> – a quartet from Edinburgh New Town Church (no fee)</p> <p><b>Music</b> – Morley Whitehead has agreed (£125)</p> <p><b>Offering</b> – Department of Services to Palestinian Refugees including East Jerusalem. The Ministers are requested to send information on DSPR to Carol as soon as possible for inclusion in publicity.</p> <p><b>Refreshments</b> – Trish in charge</p> <p><b>Hadeel</b> – have been invited to have a stall</p> <p>There will be a limited congregation for the St Andrew's Day service in Jerusalem with some small hospitality afterwards. Details will be shared by Stewart and Muriel for publicising.</p>	Muriel Stewart
14	Dates of Next Meetings	<p>Carol will send a doodle poll for the next two meetings, for the weeks of 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 and 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025.</p> <p>AGM – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025</p>	All