



## **Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> June 2025 at 121 George Street**

<b>Present</b>	Convener	Ian Alexander	
	Secretary	Carol Miller	
	Minutes Secretary	Jacky Harkness	
	Members	Maureen Jack	Tom Watson
		Douglas Simpson	Calum MacSween
	Faith Action Programme	Rebecca McGonigle	
	Ministers	Rev Dr Stewart Gillan	Rev Muriel Pearson

	Item	Comments	Action
1	Opening	Ian welcomed everyone present and started the meeting with reflections on the escalating situation in the Middle East and a prayer.	
2	Apologies	Apologies were received from Val Brown, Alison Jack, Carol Finlay, Trish Archibald and Kenny Roger (Faith Action Programme).	
3	Minutes	The Minutes from the Committee Meeting held on 26 <sup>th</sup> March 2025 had been pre-circulated. There were no matters arising and the Minutes were approved.	
4	Convener's Update	There was no additional update since the AGM. Ian is pleased that Stewart and Muriel are well and able to continue their ministry and be present in the Holy Land at the moment.	
5	Ministers' Updates	Muriel Muriel briefed the Committee on the current situation after Israel's strikes on Iran's nuclear programme. <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Scots Hotel had been fully booked, but Muriel is now the only guest.</li><li>• The security providers are monitoring the situation and may decide to repatriate the Ministers back to the UK at very short notice. An exit plan is in place.</li><li>• Tabeetha school has launched its campaign to raise funds. The alumni are very enthusiastic, and Muriel requested The Friends support their campaign in any way they can.</li><li>• The video of the Galilee Garden is now out of date and the project has been put on hold.</li></ul> Stewart Stewart thanked Kenny and Rebecca for their support.	

		<p>He reflected on the worsening situation and the importance of developing inter-faith forums.</p> <p>Ideas for future financial support</p> <p>Stewart and Muriel circulated pre-meeting their thoughts on future financial support. The main points were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It is difficult to ask for money if it is not for a specific project. Targeted financial support and fund raising is more effective.</li> <li>• The pot of discretionary money for Ministers to disperse as they feel the need is a huge asset, disproportionate to the sums of money involved.</li> <li>• The annual St Andrew's Day service and associated hospitality plays a significant part in the ecumenical and interfaith community. It would not be possible without the support from The Friends.</li> <li>• The contribution made by the right scholar can be enormous.</li> <li>• Pilgrimages are not possible at the moment but will be important in the future.</li> <li>• The publicity created by The Friends' website and Facebook page is very important.</li> </ul> <p>It was agreed that Tom, Stewart, Muriel and Carol Finlay look at the details of the financial appeal document and report back at the Committee Meeting on 10th September, with ideas of projects The Friends could support.</p> <p>Ian will send a letter to members, encouraging life members to give an annual donation and to encourage those who can to receive communication digitally.</p>	<p>Tom, Muriel Stewart Carol F  Ian</p>
6	AGMs	<p>There were about 40 in attendance, with at least 6 online at the 2025 AGM.</p> <p>After a discussion about the format for next year, it was decided to hold the 2026 AGM at 121 George Street, 1-4pm on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May. It will start with a light lunch, then the AGM, a break and finally a speaker. Carol M is requested to confirm this is possible with 121.</p>	<p>All  Carol M</p>
7	Events	<p>Ideas for future events include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A virtual meeting with the Parents' Circle. Maureen will contact them; Muriel offered to make contact with the Iona Community to see if they would consider sharing in this event.</li> <li>• Ian will ask Val if she can talk to Howwood Guild, Renfrewshire on 3<sup>rd</sup> November.</li> </ul>	<p>Maureen  Muriel  Ian/Val</p>



		<p>churches are included and to contact them with a view of raising awareness of The Friends and joining Associate Members (£20).</p> <p>The Guilds are also good organisations for associate membership. Carol M offered to send the promotional video to Karen Gillon (head of the Church of Scotland Guild).</p> <p><u>Membership</u></p> <p>Carol has written to thank those members who have made donations.</p>	Carol M
10	Christian Aid Report	<p>A report from Andrew Tomlinson had been circulated before the meeting and was discussed. The Committee decided not to support this nor sign up to the campaign.</p> <p>The Friends will continue to promote the Christian Aid Prayers for Peace.</p>	
11	Committee Changes	<p>Jacky will be standing down as the Minutes Secretary. Maureen offered to write the Minutes for the next meeting on 10<sup>th</sup> September.</p> <p>Carol M is stepping back from some of her work as Secretary. She was asked to draw up a list of her roles, in order to distribute some of the workload.</p> <p>Ideas of whom might fill the slots are requested from all.</p>	<p>Maureen</p> <p>Carol M</p> <p>All</p>
12	St Andrew's Day 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Friday 28<sup>th</sup> November 14.00 at St Cuthberts.</li> <li>• Preacher: Very Rev Shaw Paterson</li> <li>• Organist: Morley Whitehead</li> <li>• No choir</li> <li>• Pre-recorded blessing/talk from the Ministers</li> <li>• Offering: Stewart and Muriel to come up with proposals for the September meeting.</li> </ul>	<p>All</p> <p>Ministers Ministers</p>
13	Dates of next meetings	<p>Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2pm</p> <p>Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> November 11am</p> <p>Doodle polls will be sent out for meetings in January (online) and March.</p>	<p>All</p> <p>Carol M</p>
14	Closing	<p>Ian thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting with the benediction.</p>	