

Minutes of the Committee Meeting held on 18th June 2025 at 121 George Street

Present 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	lan 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 th 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 briefed the Committee on the current situation after Israel's strikes on Iran's nuclear programme. The Scots Hotel had been fully booked, but Muriel is now the only guest. 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. 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. The video of the Galilee Garden is now out of date and the project has been put on hold. Stewart 	
		Stewart thanked Kenny and Rebecca for their support.	

		He reflected on the worsening situation and the importance of	
		developing inter-faith forums.	
		 Ideas for future financial support Stewart and Muriel circulated pre-meeting their thoughts on future financial support. The main points were: It is difficult to ask for money if it is not for a specific project. Targeted financial support and fund raising is more effective. 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. 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. The contribution made by the right scholar can be enormous. Pilgrimages are not possible at the moment but will be important in the future. 	
		 The publicity created by The Friends' website and Facebook page is very important. 	
		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.	Tom, Muriel Stewart Carol F
		lan will send a letter to members, encouraging life members to give an annual donation and to encourage those who can to receive communication digitally.	lan
6	AGMs	There were about 40 in attendance, with at least 6 online at the 2025 AGM.	
		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 th May. It will start with a light lunch, then the AGM, a break and	All
		finally a speaker. Carol M is requested to confirm this is possible with 121.	Carol M
7	Events	Ideas for future events include: • A virtual meeting with the Parents' Circle. Maureen will contact them; Muriel offered to make contact with the lona Community to see if they would consider sharing in this event.	Maureen Muriel
		 Ian will ask Val if she can talk to Howwood Guild, Renfrewshire on 3rd November. 	lan/Val

		 Carol M has lots of photos and will produce a PowerPoint template for presentations. Douglas agreed to undertake to make the promotional video available on YouTube. 	Carol M Douglas
8	Scholarships	 Ian is to speak to Alison and approach Andrew Gibb of Glasgow Sons and Daughters of Ministers regarding future financial support. Clarke Muir has cleared his outstanding debt. Trish will be inducted as Minister of Gorgie and Palmerston Place on 17th July at 7pm. The Committee wish her well. 	lan
9	Reports	Finance An administration charge of £1800 is to be imposed annually by the Church of Scotland. The Committee questioned whether this is a fair amount for The Friends. Tom suggested he has a "gentle conversation" with the finance department.	Tom
		The Committee agreed to look at giving another contribution to the Ministers later in the year.	
		There are 7500 shekels in the Ministers' account. The Committee agreed it should be used as pastoral support for the staff working at the Jerusalem Guest House.	
		Newsletter The next newsletter will be published in September. Contributions and suggestions are always appreciated.	
		Facebook Another 19 followers have joined since the AGM. Trish was unable to sign on as an administrator, leaving Maureen as the sole administrator (with Andrew having retired). An active administrative member is urgently needed; lan offered to approach Carol Finlay.	lan
		The Friends have a page on the St Andrew's Jerusalem and Tiberias website. Ian now has administrative access to the website and email account, as well as Carol M. The Constitution and AGM Minutes are on the website.	
		Promotional Douglas has produced and distributed the promotional video. It can be put on YouTube under Douglas' name.	Douglas
		More than 250 churches made the original contributions to St Andrew's Jerusalem. Committee members are requested to look through the list on the website to see if any of their own	All

		churches are included and to contact them with a view of raising awareness of The Friends and joining Associate Members (£20). 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). Membership Carol has written to thank those members who have made donations.	Carol M
10	Christian Aid Report	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. The Friends will continue to promote the Christian Aid Prayers for Peace.	
11	Committee Changes	Jacky will be standing down as the Minutes Secretary. Maureen offered to write the Minutes for the next meeting on 10 th September. 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. Ideas of whom might fill the slots are requested from all.	Maureen Carol M
12	St Andrew's Day 2025	 Friday 28th November 14.00 at St Cuthberts. Preacher: Very Rev Shaw Paterson Organist: Morley Whitehead No choir Pre-recorded blessing/talk from the Ministers Offering: Stewart and Muriel to come up with proposals for the September meeting. 	All Ministers Ministers
13	Dates of next meetings	Wednesday 10 th September 2pm Wednesday 12 th November 11am Doodle polls will be sent out for meetings in January (online) and March.	All Carol M
14	Closing	lan thanked everyone for attending and closed the meeting with the benediction.	