

April 2023

To Friends in Britain Yearly Meeting

Dear Friends across the Irish Sea,

We send our loving greetings to your Yearly Meeting.

The theme that we in Ireland Yearly Meeting explored when we met earlier in April was that of “Building Community Together”, guided by the verse from Hebrews - “Let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds”.

In this context, as we look forward to the World Plenary next year, we realise the importance to us of our worldwide community of Quakers, and as our neighbouring Yearly Meeting we know of the importance of the strong and continuing friendship that connects BYM and IYM.

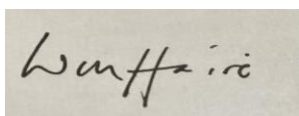
We know that our Quaker community has been deeply strengthened by our sense of being gathered and held together by the living presence. Learning to explore our spiritual faith together, and being supported in our search, is very important to our lives, and in this we are very grateful for the continuing role of Woodbrooke. We know too that the wider community of faith, outside our Quaker world, is crucial and that respectful, thoughtful engagement and listening without judgement are vital for building links between us and those of different denominations and faiths.

So too are we greatly helped by learning of the work of Friends in pressing for change and addressing the many uncomfortable issues that confront us. As we face the second year of the war in Ukraine, the promotion and preparation for peace is of course a major concern, with the challenge that we hold a variety of views as we seek to live out our Peace Testimony.

We know that community also needs some structures and organisation. Like you we are on the journey to revise our books of organisation and discipline, realising the importance of Friends throughout our Yearly Meeting becoming engaged in this discernment. Sharing this journey will be important.

We wish you well for a gathered and inspiring Yearly Meeting

In Friendship

A rectangular box containing a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature appears to read 'Will Haire' in a cursive script.

Will Haire