



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

January 2026



From Blackford Hill, Christmas 2025

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We meet on **Sundays 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, and remotely by Zoom (hybrid).

Recent notices and late changes are sent by weekly email. Join the email list by clicking the link at <https://quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh>

On the **First Thursday** of each month we meet for **30 min at 7.30 pm** by Zoom, followed by chat.

Children are welcome anytime. For details of planned activities, see online.

Other local meetings

Central Edinburgh and Portobello-Musselburgh are closest. Times are listed in SESAME, but for full info and a map, see <https://quakerscotland.org>

Several South Edinburgh Friends also attend **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**, 12.30 for 30 mins at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee available, you can eat your packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our collection in January is for **The Quaker Tapestry** – despite being ‘Cumbrian small visitor attraction of the year 2025’ the Kendal Meeting House display is closing, and needs funds to look after the collection’s future. Alison Burnley will speak to this. www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk

QUAKER EVENTS

Latest updates at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Open for Transformation – Fourth of five sessions, *Creative Review*. Two opportunities, 7.30-9.00 pm on **Mon 5 Jan** (Alison Chalmers hosting) or 2pm on **Thur 8 Jan** (Ian and Rosamond). *Open for Transformation* details in Nov issue.

Book Group on *The Shepherd's Life* by James Rebekah, **Thur 15 Jan**, 2 pm at Helen and Neil's.

What does our meeting need? Workshop after Meeting on **Sun 1 Feb** led by Zoe Prosser. Bring a sandwich. Preparation for next session of Open for Transformation, but relevant without that too.

Also in February

Quakers in Scotland meet online on **Sat 7 Feb**, probably 9.30-1.30 pm. Times and details by email.

Open for Transformation sessions 5+6 will be Mon and Thur **9,12 Feb**, and **23,26 Feb**.

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central:

Coffee at Rachel's house usually on first and third Thursdays, *but this January second and fourth*. 10.15 am: please confirm with Rachel.

Central Book Group – third Sundays after soup. January: *Night Falls on the City* by Sarah Gainham (there's a 99p e-version).



A panel from the Quaker Tapestry

SOUTH EDINBURGH QUAKER CALENDAR 2026

Dates may change! They should be updated at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents> or by email (see foot of page) for short-notice changes. There is a link to the Events table at the top of our South Edinburgh Meeting webpage. QIS = Quakers in Scotland; SESAM = South East Scotland Area Meeting.

2025	QIS and Area Meetings	Local meeting and other events
Jan	Mon 19 7-9 pm SESAM (Central Edin)	Mon 5/ Thur 8 Open for Transformation 3 Thur 15 SEd Book group?
Feb	Sat 7 QIS online meeting ?9.30-13.30 Sat 28 QIS – all-day, Perth	Sun 1 after meeting, What does our Meeting need? Mon/Thur 9/12 and 23/26 Open for Transformation session 5 and 6.
Mar	Sat 28 QIS in Perth	Sun 29 5th Sunday
April	Mon 13 SESAM Edinburgh, 7-9 pm	Fri 17-19 Women's silent retreat
May	Sat 16 QIS online meeting	Fri 1-4 Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM), London Sun 31 5th Sunday
June	Sat 6 QIS in Glasgow	
July	Sat 11 SESAM in Kelso	
Aug	Sat 22 QIS online	Sun 30 5th Sunday
Sep	Sat 19 QIS in Inverness or Aberdeen	
Oct	Sat 3 SESAM in Falkirk/Polmont Sat 24 QIS online	
Nov	Sat 7 QIS in person, ?location	Sun 29 5th Sunday
Dec		
Jan 2026	Tue 12 SESAM 7-9 pm (Central Edin) (Next QIS Sat 6 Feb 2027, online)	

South Edin Local Meeting for Business dates are awaited. Quarterly after Sunday MfW and a shared lunch.

Meetings for Witness for peace: In 2025 we held Meetings in Princes Street Gardens on the same days as those held at the North Gate, Faslane. 2026 plans to follow.

Other things

National events: www.quaker.org.uk/events has an excellent list. You can click the headings in the side menu to show just one type of event or who it's aimed at – young, old, workshops, conferences etc.

Woodbrooke Learning – browse and search at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/courses

Glenthorne (Ambleside, Lake District) <https://glenthorne.org> – click on Events 2026.

Charney Manor (Oxfordshire). www.charneymanor.com - click on Events, then Programme for 2026.

Maison Congenies (Languedoc, France) <https://maison-quaker-congenies.org/en>

More regular Quaker news

- **Quake** is BYM's short interesting weekly email. www.quaker.org.uk/resources/newsletters/quake
- The **BYM blog** at www.quaker.org.uk/blog is refreshingly varied, interesting, and concise
- For a longer read, **The Friend** (weekly, print or online, subscription required), <https://thefriend.org> The printed version can be perused at Meeting.

Get to Know – Lynne Little

Lynne was born in 1947 in Lincolnshire and moved around during her childhood into the Midlands in and near Coventry, where her father worked. She remembers walking over bomb damaged places getting quite used to them. She lived with her parents and her brother. Lynne always wanted to be a nurse from the age of 4 lying in bed with tonsillitis. She left school at 15 to go straight into the Pre-nurse training scheme at the local hospital in Coventry. A subsequent house move by her parents meant she could no longer attend this as the distance was too great. She then worked as a lab assistant at a local school until, at 18, she could commence her general nurse training in Leicester. This was a very happy time for her.



Her moves towards religion were not connected to her family – she went along to Sunday School and then later to the Methodists at 12 or 13, ending up getting confirmed in the Church of England at 16. An important moment came when the Sister on the ward asked her to baptise a child when they feared the child was going to die (in fact happily the child lived on making full use of the baptised name!) Lynne's family were not really interested in religion.

Lynne nursed for 5 years until her marriage. She and her husband were brought up in the same area but only got to know each other as adults. They brought up 2 children, staying in Leicestershire. The children went to Sunday School but Lynne only occasionally went to church where she felt the ritual was meaningless.

After many years she felt curious to seek more. On the radio she heard someone saying 'God is a mosaic and we are the tiles'. This resonated with her and she recognised that how we behave makes the mosaic work.

Lynne moved to Cumbria and became aware of the associations with George Fox there. She thought a long time before coming to Quaker Meeting. A very close friend started attending Preston Patrick Meeting – sometimes only 5 people which Lynne found comfortable. Then after 6 months, in November 2022, they moved to Edinburgh to be near their family and Lynne started to attend South Edinburgh Meeting

The silence gives her space and time to find out and make sense of her searchings. She feels it's like 'unravelling knitting'. She finds she can step at her own pace. She is still on the journey – there's always more to find out. She wants spontaneity and to be aware of what she herself feels and thinks.

She had a remarkable experience in Meeting where she felt an old burden lifting. This was after many years of a problematic relationship with her mother; she was always aware of the injustice she felt in that relationship. Then during Meeting she felt her grievances physically lifting from her. This was enormously important to her and freed her for more positive thoughts and actions.

She feels she follows her own path. Her husband, David Little, now also attends and her curiosity carries her forward...

Deirdre Armstrong met Lynne in her home in Currie.

What we do with data – an occasional reminder of our Privacy Notice

We keep contact details of members, and of attenders who have opted in to this, in our Local and Area Meetings records, and with Quakers in Scotland. We don't pass details on to other organisations, and we ask your permission before we publish them in our Book of Members. We will contact you about major things, but you can opt in or out of non-essential communications, and change your preferences about how we contact you (see above for email lists).

You can ask for your name to be removed from our records, and so far as we are able, we will do that. We are obliged to keep some records for varying time periods by law. There is more information about these and some other details in the longer QiS document at <http://quakerscotland.org> (click on Privacy Notice at the foot of any page, and then another click for general data issues).

Hearing from us by email

South Edinburgh Announcements sends emails from South Edinburgh Quakers once or twice per week, for short-notice news, additional information about interesting events, and Zoom details for online meetings. To join contact Sandra Riddell.

The list for our monthly **newsletter** (you're reading it now) is broader and separate. Contact neilturn@gmail.com



Other news and future events

The Open Door offers **Coffee and Cake days** on the second Wednesday of each month, 10.30-4.00. Donations in aid of the charity.

Morningside Justice and Peace Group has a fascinating range of short talks at **10.30 on Wed** mornings during the dark months, at the Eric Liddell Centre. <https://morningsidejandp.org> (but was still showing only 2025 in late Dec).

Edinburgh Young Friends Discussion Group (for those 18–35ish) meet fortnightly on Friday evenings at the Meeting House. They also have a WhatsApp group. Contact Central Edinburgh clerks (edcen.clerks@gmail.com) to be put in touch.

Books, Biscuits, and also Beer



Beer completes Edinburgh's trio. But why? This 1896 map (NLS) highlights 18 breweries on either side of Canongate in the 18th and 19th centuries. <https://scottishbrewingheritage.org> has more info, in somewhat piecemeal fashion. A book *Capital Brewing* will be part of the output of a project led by Sir Geoff Palmer (1940-2025), professor of Brewing at Heriot-Watt University. He is also known for his carefully considered contributions to debates on slavery and racism.



11 things growing meetings are doing

From the BYM blog at <https://bit.ly/4sjgcO7>

1. Children's programme
2. Strong, friendly welcome for newcomers
3. Strong communication
4. Regular social and community-building activities
5. Flexibility around meeting options (time, place, virtual/physical)
6. Online presence
7. Be part of the local community
8. Nurture spiritual learning and engagement
9. Empower involvement
10. Foster joyful, positive culture
11. Emphasise positive identity and successes

In the media

Robin Craig described how he became a Quaker in the Guardian. <https://bit.ly/4j8FZ7C>

Pause for Thought – Rhiannon Grant on Radio 2 www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0mp623c

Dark side of the Quakers – Not Just the Tudors, Radio 4 www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0ml23pk

The Quakers – Dan Snow's History Hit, Radio 4 www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p0mh5ng1

From York to Dubai: the rise of chocolate (Food prog) www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m002c3k3

The appeal of Quaker characters in literature – Bridget Collins explores (Open Book, Radio 4, 10 Feb 2019) www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0002g4b

Bunhill Fields and the 400th anniv of George Fox's birth ('Sunday' on Radio 4, 15 Sep 2024), 31.50 at www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/m0022zwc (5 mins)

*Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday each month. February fabulousness to neilturn@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh*