



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

April 2013



### MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

**Every Sunday** at 10.30 am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, EH10 5HY, with separate Children's meeting.

**Every weekday at Victoria Terrace:** 8am for 30 mins Mon-Fri.

**Every Wednesday at Victoria Terrace:** 12.30-1.00 followed by a simple lunch.

**At Portobello: 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday** at Old Parish Church Bellfield St, EH15 2BP at **7.30 pm** for half an hour; and **4<sup>th</sup> Sun** at **10.30 am** at CHANGES Community Health Project, 108 Market Street, Musselburgh EH21 6QA.

**At Barony St: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.** 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (junction with Albany Lane). More info: Marjorie Farquharson.

**Central Edinburgh** meeting has an early Sunday morning meeting at 9.30am in addition to the regular 11.00am meeting at Victoria Terrace.

### SPECIAL COLLECTION

In April is for **Unity in the Community**, which helps those seeking refuge in Glasgow. Pol Yates will speak to this. [bit.ly/W48j9K](http://bit.ly/W48j9K)

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

**Area meeting** for South East Scotland will be held in East Lothian, **Sat 13<sup>th</sup> April**, 11.30-4pm.

On first Sundays a **Mini-mart** is held after meeting, in aid of Wiston. [www.wistonlodge.co.uk](http://www.wistonlodge.co.uk)

**Sun 14<sup>th</sup> April** after meeting, preparatory meeting for meeting our MSP Jim Eadie (see Minutes below)

### OTHER QUAKER EVENTS

The **Drop-In Group** 1<sup>st</sup> Monday afternoons, contact Sylvia Massey.

**Quaker Knitting**, NLS cafe on Thursday evenings 5-6 pm. [moragferguson@hotmail.com](mailto:moragferguson@hotmail.com) (or call)

**Singing Group** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesdays, 7.30pm at Victoria Terrace, contact Rachel Frith, who also offers lifts for Penicuik Vault Singers on Sunday afternoons. [www.kosmoid.net/penicuik/vaults](http://www.kosmoid.net/penicuik/vaults)

**Reading the bible with Friends** meets third Tuesdays 7-9pm Victoria Terrace.

**Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group** Next meeting in Jan, but usually 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays at 7pm. [www.edinwig.org.uk](http://www.edinwig.org.uk).

**Book Group** is usually on third Sundays at 1pm, Victoria Terrace, but is breaking the rules again in April to meet on the 28<sup>th</sup> to discuss Patrick White's Voss. Qs to Rachel Frith.

**Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship** will no longer be holding regular monthly meetings – no meeting in April – but Mary Woodward is happy to be contacted by anyone interested in the Fellowship. [m.p.w@btinternet.com](mailto:m.p.w@btinternet.com)

[More Events on the Back Page](#)

### Elsbeth Lucey



Our Friend Elspeth Lucey died on 14<sup>th</sup> February

## Meeting for Business, Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> March 2012

17 Friends were present. Prevented: Alison Burnley, Jane Lewis and Deirdre Armstrong.

During our opening worship, we heard readings from Advices and Queries 14, and Quaker Faith and Practice 10.04.

**Minutes and matters arising** – Minutes of the Local Business Meeting held on 20 January 2013 have been circulated and signed.

### **(23/12) – Review of Minimart**

We agree to continue holding Minimart on a monthly basis, and we thank Kerry Oliver for agreeing to continue organising this in 2013. We considered what cause the money raised from Minimart should go to (this amounts to around £20-30 per month). It was agreed that the money should go into a special pot which could be used to support any urgent concern where our donation would make a difference to a smaller organisation. A decision on this could be made in the context of Meeting for Worship After-words, rather than waiting for the next Business Meeting. If no appropriate urgent need emerges, the money will be allocated as one lump sum to a local concern to do with homelessness, destitution, etc, in December.

### **(3/13) – Morningside-Fairmilehead Christian Aid Committee**

Sylvia Massey reported that she had attended a meeting of the committee, and indicated that she would be willing to be our representative for a year at least. We accept this offer and thank Sylvia for being willing to do this for us.

### **(05/13) – Feedback on All-Age Worship with programmed elements held on 3rd March**

Adults who had been present had enjoyed the meeting and had appreciated the offering of a story which could be taken on various levels. However, there had perhaps not been sufficient involvement of the children when they returned from their activity. We agree that this is a work in progress and we will continue to experiment.

### **07/13 – Tackling the Poverty Premium in Scotland**

We have heard that Church Action on Poverty is launching a project to tackle the underlying causes of food and fuel poverty, debt, and other aspects of the "Poverty Premium". (We heard that a poor family pays an estimated £1,280 per year extra for these essential items.) They are asking for our help in raising funds for this initiative. They hope to recruit a dedicated worker for Scotland to work with other bodies on this issue. We agree to make this the subject of a future special collection. We also ask Area Meeting to discuss this concern and ask them to consider whether an ongoing financial commitment would be possible, and also to consider whether this matter should be referred to General Meeting for Scotland.

### **08/13 – Scrap Trident**

Area Meeting has agreed to be listed as a supporter of this campaign (see [scraptrident.org](http://scraptrident.org)) and has encouraged Friends to take part in the weekend of protest and action (13-15 April). We agree that those interested in taking part meet after Meeting for Worship on 24 March. We felt that making a banner would be good.

### **09/13 – Arrangements for holding meetings for church affairs**

We have a minute from Elders and Overseers asking Local Meeting to consider trying out a new way of holding Meeting for Business:

*We suggest that the Meeting for Business on 29 May 2013 be held during Meeting for Worship, with half an hour of silence followed by business for another half hour or so and then a further short period of silence. This format has been tried in other Local meetings and the purpose of such a change would be to encourage more people to be involved in our business matters, and also to deepen the spirituality of our business meeting and its deliberations. It would be a trial, with opportunity for feedback from everyone thereafter. We hope that you will give consideration to this important matter and come to Local Meeting to take part in the deliberations, or let us know in advance what you feel about this.*

It was clarified that the intention is not to limit the length of discussion at business meeting, as this could lead to a feeling of rush and less openness to being led by the Spirit. We cannot assume that will know in advance when we will have completed the work we need to do.

Concerns raised included:

- Whether it would actually increase the spirituality of our decision making;
- Whether the sense of a gathered meeting would be broken;
- Concern that it may not be the best way of involving people to make them feel obligated to attend;
- If people have to leave before the end there will be no chance for socialising afterwards.

Positives would include:

- The benefits of bringing more people into business meeting;
- Living adventurously;
- Meeting for Worship for Business would be grounded in a longer period of worship.

Our concern in all of this is that our business meetings should be grounded in worship and the Spirit. We agree that this is a matter where we should not make a decision too quickly and we agree to go away and reflect on this and bring it again to our next local meeting when we will all be prepared in heart and mind. We need to include reflection on how this affects how we meet the needs of children in our meeting.

Elders and Overseers have also asked that we discuss the number of business meetings in a year – they suggest reducing the number to three, in February, June and October. We feel this should be treated as a separate issue, and agree to defer discussion of this.

#### **10/13 – Equal Marriage consultation**

We agree to respond to the Scottish Government consultation on Equal Marriage as a Local Meeting, expressing our support for the proposals.

#### **11/13 – Quaker Faith & Practice**

We agree to purchase copies of the latest edition of Quaker Faith & Practice for our meeting (one large print and two small).

#### **12/13 – Meetings with our elected representatives**

David Somervell reported that there had been a very positive meeting on 8 February with Iain Murray MP. We ask him to write a report for the newsletter.

We have arranged to meet Jim Eadie MSP on 27th April at 11am at Parliament. As many members and attenders as are able are invited to attend. There will be a preparatory meeting on 14 April after Meeting for Worship. The initial topic suggestion is “How we want Scotland to be”.

**Date of next meeting:** Sunday, 19 May 2013, at the Open Door.

### **Ending comfortable myths about poverty**

The Coalition Government is carrying out an unprecedented campaign against people claiming benefits, ably backed up by sections of the press. This is both financial, with the introduction of measures such as the 'bedroom tax', which will take effect from 1 April, and rhetorical, with constant references to 'the skivers, not the strivers' and 'the shirkers, not the workers'.

It cannot have escaped their notice that people might be unemployed because we are in the course of the longest recession in modern times, rather than just because they're lazy. They know better than most, that with low wages and high rents, many who are working are also having to claim benefits.

The UK churches have produced a book that tackles these issues, with the provocative title *The Lies We Tell Ourselves: ending comfortable myths about poverty*. This offers ideal information to tackle that tricky conversation in the bus queue or the pub when people start blaming people for their poverty. You can read more, and download it for free from <http://www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty/>.

If there is interest in holding a study event to look at the issues in more detail, I would be happy to help organise it.

*Alastair Cameron*

### **All-Age Worship “Making Choices” 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2013**

We planned this after some of us had taken part in a workshop on All-Age Worship and used some of the ideas – so we had an introduction which included explanation of how the meeting would run and suggesting ways everyone could share in the worship. Everyone gathered together at the normal time for meeting.

We then had some silence followed by a story called 'Fly, Eagle, Fly'. It told the story from Africa of a man finding an eagle chick, raising it with chickens and then his friend convincing him to allow the eagle to learn to soar by taking the young eagle to the top of a mountain, where he has to decide whether to fly or remain as a chicken. It is a beautifully written story. We had paper and pens available and adults and children could draw their thoughts on the story. The young people left to go into another space where they made birds with collage while talking a bit about how they make their own choices. Then the children rejoined the adults towards the end. There was ministry both when the children were away and when they rejoined. The meeting felt quite rich and meaningful.

We felt it had worked well although we have very few children. When we talked about it afterwards we felt that we could in future have the children in meeting for longer and include the adults and children in the same activity perhaps joining together something they made.

*Deidre Armstrong*

## MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

**CAAT development worker needed**, age 18+ to work towards the Abolition of the Arms Trade. Requires readiness to meet & encourage others to join the campaigning; imagination to bring new ideas; good IT skills. Honorarium £500 p.a. For more info contact David Turner (a founding member of the Group) 0131 669 1308; for Description of the Role & Application form: Marianne Ferguson Rice (Treasurer) on 0131 332 2996, [mariannefr@phonecoop.coop](mailto:mariannefr@phonecoop.coop).

**Quaker Campers** are Friends from all parts of Britain who enjoy camping together. This year's in Derbyshire, 27 Jul - 3 Aug. Booking essential. Everyone welcome. Details from Yvonne Dickson, [yhq100@hotmail.com](mailto:yhq100@hotmail.com) 01244 300992. [campers.quaker.eu.org](http://campers.quaker.eu.org)

**Bolivia** – a talk by Chistian Aid's Bolivian programme office Cecilia Cordova, Augustine United Church, 41 George IV Bridge, EH1 1EL, Tue 16<sup>th</sup> April, 2-4pm.

**An Island Between Heaven and Earth** – a play about the early days of the Iona Community. Sat 27<sup>th</sup> April, St Andrew's and St George's West Church, George St. 7.30pm £10/£7. Call 0131 225 3847, Mon-Fri 10-4. [www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk](http://www.festivalofspirituality.org.uk)

Our **weekend at Wiston** will be **Sep 6-8th**. Info and booking forms at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)

## What we're reading/watching

Our **Facebook Page of the Month** also serves as 'What we're reading' this month, as it is [desperate.dan.1232](https://www.facebook.com/desperate.dan.1232) (964 friends)



(Dandy – now online only)

## UNRELIABLE BIRTHDAY SECTION

### WISHING A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO

**Jacob**, who will be 2 on the 2<sup>nd</sup>,  
and to **Saskia**, who will be 11 on the 19<sup>th</sup>.

And **apologies** to the following who were missed out or mis-dated in earlier issues:

**Saul**, who was 16 in February

**Yoni**, who was 8 in February

**Esme**, who was 11 in March

Sorry Sorry!

## UNMISSABLE ONLINE



Hans Rosling's talk on **The Magic Washing Machine** is impressive and moving: [bit.ly/YA4o4Y](http://bit.ly/YA4o4Y)  
Why washing machines are one of the most important of inventions, and why the world needs more of this industrialist, consumerist product.



And don't miss his animated charts relating income per person to longevity worldwide over the last 100 years. [www.bit.ly/RRjy6C](http://www.bit.ly/RRjy6C)

*The newsletter is usually distributed on the last Sunday of each month. Send things you'd like to see to Neil Turner, [neilturn@gmail.com](mailto:neilturn@gmail.com). The deadline is the 2nd last Sunday.*

Read this (and more) online at [www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh](http://www.quakerscotland.org/south-edinburgh)