



## SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

September 2011



### 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.

**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. (till November at least)

**At Barony St: 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday.** 7pm at 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors). More info: Tony Gross or 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

September's special collection is for Parents' Circle Families Forum – working with bereaved Israelis and Palestinians together. Hilary Davies will speak to this. [www.theparentscircle.com](http://www.theparentscircle.com)

### LOCAL MEETING EVENTS

**Our weekend at Wiston Lodge** is **2-4 September**. (So no mini-mart at the Open Door).

**General Meeting – Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Sep**, Glasgow Meeting House from 11-4. Tea and coffee from 10.30, b.y.o. lunch but supplements likely.

**Area Meeting at the Open Door – Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Sep** at 2pm. This is also a day highlighted for us to particularly welcome visitors from other Meetings in SE Scotland to our Meeting.

**Discussion after Meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> Sep** – End of Life issues.

### OTHER EVENTS

**No Women No Peace** workshop organised by WILPF Scotland at Victoria Terrace, 2-5pm **Sat 10<sup>th</sup> Sep**. Register by Sep 5<sup>th</sup> please, [scottishwilpf@peaceandjustice.org.uk](mailto:scottishwilpf@peaceandjustice.org.uk).

**Walk for peace** on the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of 9/11, 1.30 on **Sun 11<sup>th</sup> Sep** starting at the Hindu Mandir, St Andrew's Place Leith.

**Meet Jim Eadie MSP** at the Open Door at Noon on **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sep**. More info from David Turner.

**Make Peace Festival** – Glasgow, George Sq from 11am on **Sat 17<sup>th</sup> Sep** for International Day of Peace. [banthebomb.org/makepeace](http://banthebomb.org/makepeace)

**Singing Group** meets on second Tuesday of each month at Victoria Terrace, resuming Sep 13<sup>th</sup>. Contact Rachel Frith.

**Quaker Lesbian and Gay Fellowship** meets on 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesdays, 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (buzzer 7 via Albany Lane doors). Contact Mary Woodward or [edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com](mailto:edinburgh.glgf@gmail.com) or 07543 975 590.

**Reading the bible with Friends** Third Tuesdays, 7pm at Victoria Terrace. More info at <http://bit.ly/9JgoU0>. Contact Henry Thompson.

**Edinburgh Women's Interfaith Group** 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays, 7pm. Shared (vegetarian) food followed by discussion or talk. Usually at Methodist Church, Nicholson Square. Contact Alison Burnley or Bronwyn Harwood.

**Book Group.** Usually Third Sundays at 1.15pm at Central Edinburgh: September, S Yizhar's *Khirbet Khizeh*. Qs to Rachel Frith.

[More events pages 3 and 4](#)

## Sustainability

“Quakers in Britain have committed their whole movement to becoming a low-carbon, sustainable community. They have always tried to lead simple lives but this decision goes further. It means every Quaker in Britain will be urged and supported to reduce their carbon footprint.”

### Minute 36 from Yearly Meeting Gathering in Canterbury, 2011

“Sustainability is an urgent matter for our Quaker witness. It is rooted in Quaker testimony and must be integral to all we do corporately and individually.” (*A framework for action 2009-2014*).

A concern for the Earth and the well-being of all who dwell in it is not new, and we have not now received new information which calls us to act. Rather we are renewing our commitment to a sense of the unity of creation which has always been part of Friends’ testimonies. Our actions have as yet been insufficient.

John Woolman’s words in 1772 sound as clearly to us now: *“The produce of the earth is a gift from our gracious creator to the inhabitants, and to impoverish the earth now to support outward greatness appears to be an injury to the succeeding age.”*

*Quaker faith and practice 25.01*

So we have long been aware that our behaviour impoverishes the earth and that it is our responsibility both to conserve the earth’s resources and to share them more equitably. Our long-standing commitment to peace and justice arises in part from our understanding of the detrimental effect of war and conflicts, in damaging communities and squandering the earth’s resources. As a yearly meeting we have considered this before, and in 1989 we adopted The World Council of Churches’ concern for Justice, Peace and the Integrity of Creation, minuting that this concern

*“grows from our faith, and cannot be separated from it. It challenges us to look again at our lifestyles and reassess our priorities, and makes us realise the truth of Gandhi’s words: ‘Those who say religion has nothing to do with politics do not know what religion is’ ”.*

In 2009 the yearly meeting endorsed the statement made by Meeting for Sufferings on “A Quaker response to the crisis of climate change”. This statement was addressed to the Copenhagen Conference and all Friends and meetings were urged to take up its challenges.

In preparation for this yearly meeting gathering, in the background reading, in many of the events and activities, in the Swarthmore lecture and in yesterday’s introduction and threshing groups, prophetic voices have prompted us to wrestle once again with the immensity of the challenge we face.

We are grateful to those Friends who have responded in their own lives and who have encouraged and informed us. We know that some Friends and meetings have made changes to reduce their impact on the environment, and that there is much more which may yet be done.

We need to arrive at a place in which we all take personal responsibility to make whatever changes we are called to. At the same time, we need to pledge ourselves to corporate action. The environmental crisis is enmeshed with global economic injustice and we must face our responsibility as one of the nations which has unfairly benefited at others’ expense, to redress inequalities which, in William Penn’s words, are “wretched and blasphemous” (*Quaker faith and practice 25.13*).

The action we are ready to take at this time is to make a strong corporate commitment to become a low-carbon, sustainable community. This will require a process to establish a baseline of current witness and a framework in which individual Friends and local meetings can share their successes.

We need to allocate adequate resources to this process. This process needs to be joyful and spirit-led, with room for corporate discernment at local, area and national level. We believe this corporate action will enable us to speak truth to power more confidently. Growing in the spirit is a consequence of taking action, and action flows from our spiritual growth; here is the connectedness we seek. Only a demanding common task builds community.

“Whom shall I send?” We hear the call to this demanding common task. How will we answer it?

We have been reminded of the current work of Quaker Peace and Social Witness. We ask Meeting for Sufferings to work with area meetings and our staff to make better known our current witness and to give thought to appropriate aims for our corporate commitment and the framework which will allow our successes to be shared. We ask them to look at the priorities in *A Framework for Action* and ask Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to see where there are resources that can be allocated to these priorities to support our corporate commitment and to take our action forward. In addition we ask Meeting for Sufferings to look at the issues of public policy that we might be led to adopt and advocate in the political arena.

We ask Meeting for Sufferings and Britain Yearly Meeting Trustees to report back to Yearly Meeting each year on the progress of this concern.

We ask area meetings to consider how truth prospers with regard to sustainability, taking care to relate this to all our testimonies – peace, truth, simplicity, equality and care for the environment.

We encourage local and area meetings to practise speaking truth to power at local level by establishing relationships with all sections of local communities, including politicians, businesses and schools, to encourage positive attitudes to sustainability.

To individual Friends we issue a clear call to action to consider the effect of their lives on the world's limited resources and in particular on their carbon usage. We ask Friends to keep informed about the work being done locally, centrally and throughout the Quaker world and to educate themselves.

But above all that Friends keep in their hearts that this action must flow from nowhere but love.

If we are successful in what we set out to do, we will need to be accountable to one another, but we will also need to be tender with one another, and to support one another through the grief and fear that radical change will provoke.

*"I may have faith enough to move mountains; but if I have not love, I am nothing... Love keeps no score of wrongs, takes no pleasure in the sins of others, but delights in the truth. There is no limit to its faith, its hope, its endurance. Love will never come to an end."* 1 Corinthians 13: verses 2-8 (parts), *New English Bible*.

**Links:** Testimonies [www.quaker.org.uk/testimonies](http://www.quaker.org.uk/testimonies); Quaker Faith and Practice <http://qfp.quakerweb.org.uk>

## Boycotting settlement produce

One of the biggest barriers to peace in the Israeli Palestinian conflict is the presence of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories of the West Bank. The settlements are illegal under international law. They cause harm and poverty to Palestinians and are an obstacle to peace.

Goods produced in or sourced from settlements, including fruit and vegetables, processed food, wine and household goods are sold throughout Europe. This trade helps to bolster settlement economies, contributes to the settlements' permanence and indirectly undermines efforts to achieve peace and security for both Israelis and Palestinians.

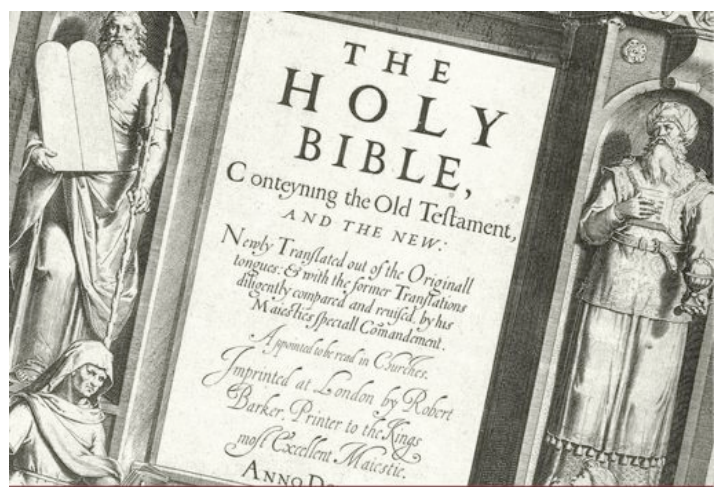
Quakers in Britain have recently decided to boycott settlement goods. The boycott is a non-violent action designed to support efforts to build peace in the region. It is not directed at Israeli products. Quakers are also working with others to persuade government and retailers to end this trade.

Boycott these products is not easy, but [www.quaker.org.uk/settlement-produce](http://www.quaker.org.uk/settlement-produce) has information on how.

## 400 Years of the King James Version

A series of talks organised by Greenbank and Morningside Parish Churches with the University School of Divinity. Every Sunday evening during September, 7pm at Morningside Parish Church. Refreshments from 6.30pm

- 4<sup>th</sup> Prof David Fergusson. The King James Bible in Scotland.
- 11<sup>th</sup> Dr David Reimer. Tyndale may have loved it, but why should I?
- 18<sup>th</sup> Prof Larry Hurtado. The King James Bible: Product and Victim of Biblical Scholarship.
- 25<sup>th</sup> Elaine Duncan, Scottish Bible Society. The Word for the World.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct Reading the Bible.



## QUAKER WEEK

### Quakers and peacemaking

An opportunity for in-reach and out-reach. A series of free public talks at Victoria Terrace Meeting House with questions and discussion. Each is preceded by a light vegetarian supper (soup, rolls and fillings) at 6.15 with the talk at 7pm, followed by open discussion then tea/coffee and biscuits at 9. All are welcome.

Do join us and let others know.

**Thur 29<sup>th</sup> Sep** – A Quaker Astronomer Reflects. Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

**Mon 1<sup>st</sup> Oct** – The Quaker Peace Testimony: what does it mean to Friends? John Phillips.

**Wed 3<sup>rd</sup> Oct** – Expect the Best: Quakers and the Political Process. Alastair Cameron and Janet Fenton.

**Fri 5<sup>th</sup> Oct** – Quakers and the alternatives to violence project. Mark Bitel.

## MORE EVENTS AND NEWS

### Singing for joy, dancing with delight

**Sat 1st Oct**, Meeting House, Victoria Terrace  
Singing 2 – 3.15pm; circle dancing 3.45 – 5pm

Come and sing simple rounds and harmony songs, sacred and secular, from around the world. There's no need to read music or to be a 'good' singer and there'll be plenty to enjoy regardless of ability.

Then some simple circle dances in various styles. No partner or previous experience is required. The emphasis is on enjoyment and the community we create. £6/5 conc. payable on the day (cost of the hall). Book with Rachel Howell [sr\\_rachel@hotmail.com](mailto:sr_rachel@hotmail.com); 0131 557 8376 (be sure to leave your name and number)

**AM on Sat 15<sup>th</sup> October** will now be hosted by **Central Fife** Friends at their usual meeting place in Kinghorn (previously advertised as Peebles).

**Mon 24<sup>th</sup> Oct**, Victoria Terrace, 7-7.30pm, Michael Bartlet (Quaker parliamentary liaison officer) will be speaking on "A political topic related to Scotland".

**Flat** Rachel Howell is looking for a new place for a year. Can you help?

*What is this? It is being erected at the top of Canaan Lane, and it looks very exciting. Suspicion is it may well not be.*

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

To **Esther** who will be 12 on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

## UNMISSABLE ONLINE

**Facts from the National Statistics Offices** – a fascinating source of real info to combat rumour and hype. [www.statistics.gov.uk](http://www.statistics.gov.uk) has accurate facts about teenage pregnancy, population and migration patterns, work, salaries, and much more. Scotland figures, including first names not made into Wordles, at [www.gro-scotland.gov.uk](http://www.gro-scotland.gov.uk)



Wordles (make yours at [www.wordle.net](http://www.wordle.net)) showing the most popular children's names in *England and Wales* in 2010. Jack and Sophie lead Scotland, with Ollie and Alicia as the biggest climbers.

**Facebook page of the Month** is **The Quaker Bookshop** (31 checkins). Nearby listed attractions G-A-Y (7,000 checkins) and St Pancras Station (40,000 checkins). [quaker.org.uk/shop](http://quaker.org.uk/shop) is the excellent website of Friends House bookshop.

## PUZZLE

**For scientists and children of all ages**

