

# South Edinburgh Quaker Meeting January 2010 Calendar



## KEY EVENTS & INFORMATION FOR SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

- ❖ **Every Sunday:** MEETING FOR WORSHIP at 10:30am at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road
- ❖ **Every morning, Monday to Friday:** "Early Bird" MEETING FOR WORSHIP at Friends Meeting House, 7 Victoria Terrace, from 8am for half an hour.
- ❖ **3 January, Sunday:** MINI-MART after Meeting for Worship, in aid of Wiston Lodge.
- ❖ **3 January, Sunday:** MEETING FOR WORSHIP AT PORTOBELLO. Old Parish Church, Bellfield Street, at 7:30pm for about half an hour.
- ❖ **16 January, Saturday:** AREA MEETING FOR BUSINESS at 7 Victoria Terrace, 11am.
- ❖ **17 January, Sunday:** LOCAL BUSINESS MEETING, at the Open Door.
- ❖ **20 January, Wednesday:** QUAKER LESBIAN AND GAY FELLOWSHIP, 7pm at the Glasite Meeting House, 33 Barony St (on the corner of Barony St and Albany Lane; enter by the Albany Lane doors and call buzzer 7). All welcome! Enquiries to [edinburgh.qlgf@gmail.com](mailto:edinburgh.qlgf@gmail.com) or to Mary Woodward.
- ❖ **24 January, Sunday:** MEETING FOR WORSHIP AT PORTOBELLO at 10:30am, 3 Esplanade Terrace.

## SPECIAL COLLECTION FOR DECEMBER

January's special collection will go to the Common Fund.

### BIRTHDAY CORNER



In January the following young people will be celebrating their birthdays:

**Joe will be 1 on January 2nd**

Please remember to let me know if any young people need to be added to the list!

#### Meetings for Worship at Faslane

Friends hold a Meeting for Worship at the Clyde Submarine Base, Faslane several times a year. The base, just north of Helensburgh, is the home of the Trident submarines which carry Britain's nuclear weapons, and has been the focus of a wide range of protest and witness over the years. These meetings are a chance for a silent witness for peace at this highly significant site. The dates for this year will be:

- ❖ February 7
- ❖ April 4 (Easter Sunday, but we will also be supporting Trident Ploughshares)
- ❖ June 20
- ❖ August 29
- ❖ September 26
- ❖ November 14

Please bring something to sit on, something to eat and weatherproof clothing. We aim to leave Edinburgh at 8:30am, and lifts are often available. Please speak to Alison Burnley for more information.

#### Spiritual Friendship Day

**SATURDAY 20th MARCH, 9.30am – 4.30pm at 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh**

Spiritual Friendship is a wonderful way that we can offer one another companionship, support and nourishment on our spiritual journeys. Through spending time together reflecting, sharing and listening, we can really begin to know one another better in the 'things that are eternal' and deepen our own spiritual lives.

This day will enable us to explore what spiritual friendship is; how to start one and maintain it. We will:

- ❖ practice listening attentively and prayerfully to each other
- ❖ gather ideas for conducting our spiritual sharing
- ❖ look at language and the ability to describe and share our experience regardless of what we may each believe about the divine

All are very welcome whether a newcomer, attender or member. The event promises to be stimulating and participatory with plenty of opportunities for shared reflection.

If you wish to attend the day you will need to register by completing a form which will be available at your meeting (from the clerk).

Please contact Madeleine Harding if you have any enquiries Tel:0131 554 6794

Ginny Wall from Woodbrooke on the Road who is facilitating the day is passionate about enabling the development of spiritual friendships among Quakers.

## Drop-in group? Re-born?

It has been suggested that the Drop-in Group should be reactivated but with a difference. In future it would continue to meet during the day, once a month, but the Meetings would vary considerably, including short walks; visits to local places of interest; table games at Friends homes; play-reading; discussions, etc, etc. If this sounds fun to you please will you contact either Dorothy Buglass (447 2804) or Sylvia Massey(229 4238) as soon as possible so that we MIGHT get started in January!

## OTHER ITEMS OF INTEREST & DEEP CONCERN TO FRIENDS

### World Day of Prayer

All meetings are held at the Church of Scotland office, 121 George Street, at 10:30am. Dates are:

- ❖ January 29 – Friday.
- ❖ February 5
- ❖ February 12
- ❖ February 26
- ❖ March 5 (at a Church near you)
- ❖ April 23, AGM

Please speak to Alison Burnley for more information.

### Protest In Harmony

Protest in Harmony dates for 2010 are: January 9th, February 13th, March 13th, April 10th, May 8th, June 12th, Sept 18th, Oct 9th, Nov 13th, Dec 11th ...all from 10:00 – 1:00 at 7 Victoria Terrace.

The group meets one Saturday each month to learn songs of freedom and struggle from around the world. All are welcome. No need to read music, no singing experience necessary — just come along with your enthusiasm and your voice! More information from Jane Lewis or Chris Booth (or on the website: [www.protestinharmony.org.uk](http://www.protestinharmony.org.uk)).

### Morningside Justice and Peace Group

This group meets at The Open Door, 420 Morningside Road. For further details contact Patricia Robson on 0131 229 0803.

- ❖ 13 January: Dr Carl Troein, School of Biological Sciences, University of Edinburgh  
*Recent scientific evidence: how does the weather affect our daily rhythms?*
- ❖ 20 January Harry Roberson, Criminal Justice Dept., Edinburgh Social Services  
*Keeping youngsters out of prison via 'payback' community work*
- ❖ 27 January Prof. Michael Tooley, St. Andrew's University and Emeritus Professor Kingston University  
*Climate change: reviewing the evidence*

### Singers Group

The Singing Group will meet at Victoria Terrace on Tuesday 12 January. Please come and practise some songs as a contribution to the ceilidh later in the month! Further dates are: 9 February, 16 March.

**Rachel Frith**

### Friendly Walks

About once a month, some of us join Friends from Glasgow to Perthshire for hill walking. Sometimes there is also an opportunity for lower-level walks in the same location. Dates for 2010 are: January 23rd, February 27th, March 20th, April 24th, May 22nd, June 26th.

We generally share transport. If you would like to join us, please let me know if you need or can offer a lift. Walkers are responsible for their own safety and should come well-equipped. If you would like to be added to the email list, please email:

[annemarie.procter@googlemail.com](mailto:annemarie.procter@googlemail.com)

**Annemarie Procter**

**SHELTER shops**, aware of environment needs, no longer supply plastic bags of their own. They therefore welcome normal sized used bags (in reasonable condition!) from the Public. If you ever have too many bags please contact Sylvia Massey(229 4238)

Inspired by an idea from writer Karen Armstrong, the **Charter of Compassion** ([charterforcompassion.org](http://charterforcompassion.org)) is a cooperative effort to restore not only compassionate thinking but, more importantly, compassionate action to the centre of religious, moral and political life. Compassion is the principled determination to put ourselves in the shoes of the other, and lies at the heart of all religious and ethical systems. One of the most urgent tasks of our generation is to build a global community where men and women of all races, nations and ideologies can live together in peace.



**Charter for Compassion**

The Charter, crafted by people all over the world and drafted by a multi-faith, multi-national council of thinkers and leaders, seeks to change the conversation so that compassion becomes a key word in public and private discourse, making it clear that any ideology that breeds hatred or contempt – be it religious or secular – has failed the test of our time. It is not simply a statement of principle; it is above all a summons to creative, practical and sustained action to meet the political, moral, religious, social and cultural problems of our time.

**The principle of compassion** lies at the heart of all religious, ethical and spiritual traditions, calling us always to treat all others as we wish to be treated ourselves. Compassion impels us to work tirelessly to alleviate the suffering of our fellow creatures, to dethrone ourselves from the centre of our world and put another there, and to honour the inviolable sanctity of every single human being, treating everybody, without exception, with absolute justice, equity and respect.

**It is also necessary** in both public and private life to refrain consistently and empathically from inflicting pain. To act or speak violently out of spite, chauvinism, or self-interest, to impoverish, exploit or deny basic rights to anybody, and to incite hatred by denigrating others—even our enemies—is a denial of our common humanity. We acknowledge that we have failed to live compassionately and that some have even increased the sum of human misery in the name of religion.

**We therefore call upon all men and women** – to restore compassion to the centre of morality and religion – to return to the ancient principle that any interpretation of scripture that breeds violence, hatred or disdain is illegitimate – to ensure that youth are given accurate and respectful information about other traditions, religions and cultures – to encourage a positive appreciation of cultural and religious diversity – to cultivate an informed empathy with the suffering of all human beings – even those regarded as enemies.

**We urgently need** to make compassion a clear, luminous and dynamic force in our polarized world. Rooted in a principled determination to transcend selfishness, compassion can break down political, dogmatic, ideological and religious boundaries. Born of our deep interdependence, compassion is essential to human relationships and to a fulfilled humanity. It is the path to enlightenment, and indispensable to the creation of a just economy and a peaceful global community.

Calendar compiled by: Chris Booth ([chris@gn.apc.org](mailto:chris@gn.apc.org), 0131-669 5591)

Please send items for the February issue to me by Friday 29th January, 9 pm

*Chris Booth and David Turner wrote the following letter to Barack Obama on the Meeting's behalf:*

President Barack Obama,  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington  
DC 20500  
United States of America

Dear Barack Obama,

We write to you on behalf of South Edinburgh Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers) to offer our sincere congratulations on the award to you of the Nobel Peace Prize. We greatly welcome the evidence of your commitment, in word and action, to a world free of nuclear weapons and to the resolution of long-standing conflicts.

It is, however, with grave regret that we hear of your recent decision (albeit after lengthy consideration) to send very substantial military reinforcements to Afghanistan, apparently in the belief that this will hasten an end to the conflict. Such a move seems in our eyes to ignore the lessons of history, and of Afghan history in particular. Far from winning hearts and minds, we believe your present policy will continue to alienate those whose support is so needed for the country's peace and stability, and will act as a recruiting agency for militant and extremist factions.

We recall the well-known words of Martin Luther King, Jr.:

*Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that. Hate multiplies hate, violence multiplies violence, and toughness multiplies toughness in a descending spiral of destruction... The chain reaction of evil – hate begetting hate, wars producing more wars – must be broken, or we shall be plunged into the dark abyss of annihilation.*

We would suggest that the only way forward for this ravaged country – and for peace and stability in the region, and in our own countries – is to act in ways which gain the trust of the Afghan people, the great majority of whom are sick of war and destruction and who long for peace. Such trust can be established if people see, on a scale comparable to military funding, a commitment to tackling poverty, education and health needs for all.

We invite you to help build the foundations of a lasting peace by taking bold and visionary steps in this direction. Such steps would surely vindicate the confidence and expectations of the Nobel Committee who awarded the prize.

In peace and friendship,

David Turner  
Chris Booth  
(on behalf of South Edinburgh Local Meeting of the Religious Society of Friends)

*Only when the seeds of war – pride, prestige, and lust for power and possessions – have been purged from our personal and corporate ways of living; only when we can meet all as friends in a spirit of sharing and caring, can we call upon others to tread the same path.*

*Our Christian Pacifism,... could be an experience from which we may speak to peoples and rulers and which transforms a negative refusal to take part in war into a positive witness to the better way. We must by study, by group sharing, and by experience of active peace work equip ourselves with reliable knowledge to enable us not only to expound but also to apply our peace testimony.*

**Friends World Conference, 1952**

## **FOCUS ON QUAKERS – THE PEACE TESTIMONY**

Following the success of the Focus on Quakers meetings held in November, we are holding two further events, this time focusing on the theme:

My experience and beliefs about the Peace Testimony  
and the dilemmas I face in living them

1.00 – 3.00pm Sunday, 21st February

7.30 – 9.30pm Wednesday, 10th March

At 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh

They will be held in the same format as before with three speakers followed by the chance for us all to share on the theme if we wish.

This is a good opportunity for us to concisely, clearly and confidently articulate our experiences and what we believe (having given thought to it beforehand if wished), and to hear others' experience and beliefs. This can also help us to prepare to speak truth to power if we wish to and to listen to those in power.

Participants of at least one of the first two meetings will have the opportunity to listen to and speak truth to power in a follow up Focus on Quakers style meeting in late March, attended by one of the most senior army officials in Scotland.

Please register if you wish to attend at least one of the Focus on Quakers meetings on the Peace Testimony by completing the form below. You may wish to attend both meetings as the different speakers and shared contributions will make each event unique and give us a further chance to reflect on and articulate our experiences.

All members and attenders are very welcome. If you have any queries please contact Ann Forsyth  
Tel: 0131 444 1007

We look forward to seeing you.

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I wish to attend Focus on Quakers on:  
Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> February or Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> March or Both Meetings  
(Please delete as appropriate)

Name:.....

Local Meeting:.....

Please return the form to Ann Forsyth, Central Edinburgh Meeting, 7 Victoria Terrace, Edinburgh, EH1 2JL