



# Terrace Talk

## Newsletter, Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting March 2021

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### WORSHIP Our Zoom link on Sundays continues to be:

<https://zoom.us/j/121083985?pwd=emF6UWo0blpwUG1FUTN0SjllSDkwdz09> Password: george

**28 February:** North Edinburgh worshipping group, 7pm, p9

**11 and 25 March:** Epilogue. 9 pm 30 mins worship, followed by time for chat, hot chocolate etc, p9

**Sunday 28 February:** 9.30am MfW, the fourth Sunday of the month

### OTHER DIARY DATES:

**7 March:** business meeting, 12.15. Review of early morning Meetings for Worship and financial report. All welcome!

**6 March:** General Meeting (lots happening!), p5

**20 March:** Area Meeting, p5

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### WHAT'S INSIDE

Hello everyone, the chink of light in the pandemic tunnel looks good. And the latest news on Easing of Restrictions means that a return to holding Meeting for Worship in the Meeting House *could* be possible at some point in April. Reopening the MH for other purposes (i.e. room hire) is likely to be some way further down the line - end of April at the earliest, for very limited types of groups. (This is a decision of the Safety Committee, Management Committee and Trustees.)

Meanwhile, changes might be afoot in the Religious Society of Friends:

- Should Meeting for Sufferings be reformed?
- Should we rethink our Scottish structures by having only one trustee body, not the current five?

Meanwhile:

- Li-Nan McLellan tells us about the Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation.
- On 27 March Portobello and Musselburgh are inviting us to an online **evening of fun, song, hilarity, stories, music and poems**, in aid of the COP26 civic society coalition solidarity campaign.

But we start with news from the children's committee about **how children and families in the meeting are doing**. Throughout the newsletter are images of the children's creative work, mostly from all-age worship:



This has been a difficult time for all of us, but as a parent trying to work (either from home or going out to work) and home school, it has been particularly difficult.

When it got too cold and we were not allowed to meet outside we were back on zoom – not the best medium for some children but we do our best.

We have kept all age worship going and recently the children themselves were very involved in the planning and presentation.

We recently sent our families a little gift to bring some cheer and fun. We were lucky enough to get funding from the Sylvia Marshall Trust for this – so a gift to the children from meeting.



Thank you Madeline, Susie and Emma for all you do ...

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### **Promoting Quaker values, beliefs, approaches ...**

**Election** This May, elections are scheduled for both the Scottish Parliament and the Welsh Senedd. With COVID-19 restrictions likely to be in place, our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Andrew Tomlinson, has been working with the Scottish Churches Parliamentary Office Cytûn (Churches Together in Wales), and the Joint Public Issues Team, to produce guidance for holding online hustings:

<https://www.quakerscotland.org/our-work/parliamentary-engagement/news/scottish-parliament-elections-2021>

How about our organising a hustings, maybe with local or area ecumenical and/or interfaith partners? If interested in exploring further, contact our clerk, Marliyn Higgins, [edcen.clerks@gmail.com](mailto:edcen.clerks@gmail.com)

**Contacting your MSP** Quakers in Britain have prepared a useful guide [Contacting your MP](#). This is geared towards the UK Parliament, but the principles outlined apply equally to the Scottish Parliament. The main issues Andrew is working on this year are: the climate emergency and COP26; and a possible new human rights law for Scotland. He is keen to keep in touch with local work: [andrewt@quaker.org.uk](mailto:andrewt@quaker.org.uk)

### **Enquirers' event - Saturday 24 April, 10.30 -1.30am**

Called Exploring the Quaker Life, this online event is for those who wish to explore being a Quaker in Scotland today. Contact Mariot Dallas, via [office@equaker.org.uk](mailto:office@equaker.org.uk)

Meeting ID: 860 9095 3672

Passcode: 069956

## **Deepening our Spiritual Life**

### **The Light that shines for all**

*It is not opinion, or speculation, or notions of what is true, or assent to or the subscription of articles or propositions, though never so soundly worded, that ... makes a man a true believer or a true Christian. But it is a conformity of mind and practice to the will of God, in all holiness of conversation, according to the dictates of this Divine principle of Light and Life in the soul which denotes a person truly a child of God.*

William Penn, 1692

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## **Witnessing to our Faith in Action**

### **This month's Good Cause: Buddhist Compassion Relief Tzu Chi Foundation**

*Our Friend, Li-nan McClellan, writes:*

This international non-profit organisation was founded in 1966 by Dharma Master Cheng Yen. The 'Four Major Missions' of the foundation consists of Charity, Medicine, Education and Humanistic Values. Its missions further extended to include Bone Marrow Donation, International Relief, Environmental Protection and Community Volunteering. Tzu Chi volunteers are devoted to spreading 'Great Love', to relieve suffering and bring peace and happiness to people; by upholding the values of sincerity and integrity, they have received strong support and recognition for their work.

During the outbreak of Covid-19, Tzu Chi UK has donated PPE supplies such as face masks and gloves to more than 63 healthcare institutions in UK to protect our frontline workers and local essential services, such as Edinburgh Food Project, Western General Hospital, Pilton Youth & Children's Project, Barnardos and some Edinburgh primary and high Schools. Some of our Quaker friends have also been supported during this difficult time. Tzu Chi volunteers distributed winter care packages to homeless people on streets and through some churches, provided free vegetarian meals to the vulnerable, and they supported families and local communities affected by flooding and fire in England too.

Please visit our global website: <https://www.tzuchi.org.tw/en/> or <https://www.tzuchi.uk/>  
If you are willing to be one of our volunteers, please contact Tzu Chi Edinburgh Contact, on [edinburgh@tzuchi.uk](mailto:edinburgh@tzuchi.uk)

If you are willing to give a donation, please transfer money directly to Buddhist Compassion Relief. Sort Code: 20-29-37, A/C No: 50407402. Or send cheques payable to Tzu Chi Foundation UK Ltd to Li-nan McClellan, or to Hilary Patrick, Treasurer, Central Edinburgh Quaker Meeting (both addresses in the Quaker Book). Many thanks

### **Dates for Meetings for Worship for Witness for Peace at Faslane, 2021** - if possible

14 March, 18 April, 16 May, 27 June, 26 September (possibly joined by Northern Friends Peace Board)  
10 October, 14 November. We meet at the North Gate. Bring something to sit on, weather-proof clothing, and something to eat before returning home. All meetings start at 11am. *Alison Burnley*

### **Interested in setting up an ethical bank account?** *Friends of the Earth* suggest *Triodos Bank*

[https://www.triodos.co.uk/foe/?utm\\_campaign=foe&utm\\_source=foe&utm\\_medium=email](https://www.triodos.co.uk/foe/?utm_campaign=foe&utm_source=foe&utm_medium=email)

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## **People**

*A letter to us all from Madaleine Moffatt:*

Dear Quaker Friends, You have been more than that to me - you have been my family! Thank you for that. On 3 March, I am leaving Musselburgh and off to a care home of my choice - Wisma Mulia in Frampton-on-Severn, Gloucestershire. It is well connected with SUBUD\*, but not exclusively so, and I shall be able to continue my Subud way of worship and continue trying to lead a good Quaker life. Please forgive my imperfections. I am hoping that my back pain may gain me a few Brownie points. I have grown to love you and that is the best gift of all that you can give to anyone. A great big thank-you.

Love Madaleine

*\*The editor writes: Subud is an international spiritual movement that began in Indonesia in the 1920s, and which Madaleine has been involved in for some 30 years. The basis of Subud is a spiritual exercise called the latihan, which represents guidance from 'the Power of God' or 'the Great Life Force'.*

*Madaleine's much-loved nephew Max is over from Toronto and helping her move. Love and blessings to her from us all in this new adventure.*



For the Memorial minute for Gerald Walmesely, see p.8. Memorial minutes for Andrew Kinnaird and Monica Jackson will be in future editions.

### **Social/community building/arts/fun**

**Equinox Climate Ceilidh** – Portobello and Musselburgh Meeting are inviting us to an online evening of fun, song, hilarity, stories, music and poems on Sat 27 March. 7.30-10 pm (plus young family circle 6-6.45pm). It is fundraising for the COP26 civic society coalition solidarity campaign. Book at <https://www.citizenticket.co.uk/events/ceilidh-collective/quaker-cabaret-climate-ceilidh/>

On Zoom: <https://zoom.us/j/95722990184?pwd=dWVJdVZvb2xTQUUpqK0lvWkVOVWt5Zz09>

**Singing Group** Tuesday 2 March at 7.30. 106 451 170. Pw 144309

**Coffee mornings:** Thursdays 4 and 18 March from 10.30. 957 2299 0184. Pw 110279

**Book group:** Sunday 28 March after Meeting for Worship. 121 083 985. Password George

We shall decide on 28 February what book to read and discuss.

### **Edinburgh and Lothians Regional Equality council:**

**Electric bikes:** We have a few electric bikes available for three weeks free loans (£20 deposit required). If interested in borrowing one, please email [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk) (first come first served).

**Clothing repair service** - Do you have any clothes needing repaired? We can fix it! Just drop in Mon-Friday 9.30am-5.30pm at ELREC, 14 Forth St, EH1 3LH. Clothing repairs and alterations ~ Custom tailoring. [cfc@elrec.org.uk](mailto:cfc@elrec.org.uk)

## **Area Meeting**

**Next Area Meeting - Saturday 20 March, 10am - 1pm, ish**

*Theme: Living Earth; Loving Earth.*

The meeting will include a series of break-out contributions from members of East Lothian LM:

- The Migrants of the Bass Rock, a silent slide show of the rock and its magnificent bird life.
- Not yet recycled – making an eco-brick. Ray Halliday will instruct us on turning waste plastic into a useful brick.
- Being a beginner. Alistair Mackie on carving in stone during Lockdown. .
- Living Earth, Loving Earth.
- Gleanings.

For more info, see our clerk Alistair Cameron's detailed email of 19 February.

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## **General Meeting - next meeting: 6 March**

10.15-12, then 1-2.30, Register in advance (not at the last minute) on:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsfu2vqjstvHNRxXjg4OKWRbRATXXChrZAf>

If you do not have access to the internet, register by phoning Martin Burnell on 0131-343-2592 and join the meeting by landline.

## **1. For discernment: Should we lay down four of the five current trustee bodies in Scotland?**

*Here are extracts from a background paper by the Clerk of West Scotland Meeting, Michael Hutchinson:*

The proposal would mean widening the remit of the General Meeting for Scotland Trustees to serve the whole country. North Scotland Friends, through their AM minutes, have for some years now been asking General Meeting for assistance or seeking change, as they feel they cannot continue to operate a separate trustee body. They cannot find enough Friends willing to serve as trustees. They also find the work involved, particularly on property matters, burdensome.

### **Some of the reasons for rejecting the idea of single Scottish trustee body are:**

- A single Scottish Quaker charity would be too geographically large to operate successfully. Having trustee meetings would be burdensome on many serving owing to the distance to be travelled and time it takes.
- Friends would feel the trustee body too remote from their local meetings, and hence potentially elitist.
- The work of a Scotland-wide treasurer would be too large. And managing all the Quaker properties in Scotland would be complex and too large a task for one body.
- More opportunities for mutual support can take place without amalgamation, such as collaboration on issues such as insurance arrangements, risk assessment, safeguarding and other policies.
- The process of combining charities is not straightforward, particularly if there is property or other assets which one of the merging bodies regards as its own. It could be a daunting task to accomplish.

### **Some of the reasons for suggesting a single Scottish trustee body are:**

- The same issues facing Friends are arising in many Area Meetings and hence there is duplication of effort to face them.

- At least two of the four Scottish area meetings (West and North) are already so geographically large that it may not be a very much more significant change to have a fully Scottish one.
- Demographic reality is that we have fewer and more ageing members able to take on the trustee role and we need to adapt our structures to match.
- Quaker structures are not set in stone. The Society survives because it constantly adapts. Britain Yearly Meeting's Simple Meetings can provide models for action.
- Collaboration and sharing of expertise has been important, but there seems some degree of duplication of having five sets of trustees, and five sets of AM/GMS clerks carrying out similar complex work.
- The experience of the pandemic, particularly on the use of technology, has shown that we can change our ways to suit new conditions, and in doing so can find that there were unseen advantages.
- Area Meeting business is meant to be the Quaker community working for itself, yet for many Friends are irrelevant to their daily Quaker lives. Having one trustee and one main business meeting for Scotland could release time and effort more regionally and locally for things that matter to Friends: learning, spiritual development, witness.
- Networks of cooperation can be established. A treasurer team could manage accounts.

**Conclusion** Is it time to consider setting up a GMS group to look at the issues, check the veracity of the arguments for or against and to propose solutions? We are one Quaker community and if some of us have difficulty we need to help each other.

## **2. For discernment: Meetings for Sufferings - how could it work better? concerns of our General Meeting for Scotland representative**

*Extracts from report to General Meeting by Ann Kerr, Glasgow West meeting:*

### **Introduction**

Since attending my first meeting of Meeting for Sufferings (MfS) in July 2018 I have taken part, absorbed papers, listened and often felt uncomfortable. These concerns have been explored and tested with Scottish Friends knowledgeable about or active in MfS, clerks of General Meeting for Scotland (GMS) and past and present trustees of Britain Yearly Meeting (BYM). This has helped to recognise possible underlying issues that may impact on the effectiveness and value of MfS.

### **Background**

MfS has a long history at the centre of the Society of Friends in Britain. The principle of Friends from across England, Scotland and Wales acting as a representative body is an important one. The role of MfS has developed and changed over the years. 200 years ago, it was a smaller body largely drawn from London based Quakers able to respond and act quickly which has at times been important both for Quakers and nationally (Quaker Faith and Practice [QFP] 7.01).

### **Underlying issues**

1. Consistency of representation (QFP 7.05 & 7.06).

Over the time I have been attending, my fellow representatives have varied. Whilst there are now some familiar faces it would appear that the current system of representatives and alternates mitigates against forming a consistent group...

2. Coherence of the meeting

If membership is inconsistent, it is difficult for it to form a coherent group working together in Meetings for Worship for Business. During my attendance the things that have enabled representatives to know each other in a deeper sense, which strengthens the worshipping community have been residential meetings, home groups, small group discussions and more recently Zoom break out meetings during MfS or the new pre-meetings.

3. Relationships between BYM Trustees and MfS.

4. Many members and attenders with some interest in the Quaker world beyond their own meeting perceive MfS as being responsible for all aspects of BYM in between yearly meetings, as stated in QFP and on the BYM website. However, changes to charity law led BYM in 2008 to introduce a Trustee body... The governance of BYM as a charity is the responsibility of Trustees, however the distinction between this role and the wider role of MfS may not be clearly understood. As a smaller body, BYM Trustees have been able to respond quickly and this has been important during the Covid-19 pandemic. What are the best roles for a smaller body and for a larger one? Is there a need to articulate the roles, their distinctiveness and their overlaps, more clearly?

If MfS is not a consistent or coherent body, and lacks clarity about its role in recent years then there are risks to its ability to fulfill all of its functions (QFP 7.02)....

**Discussion** What would strengthen MfS, and enable it to be a more coherent and consistent worshipping group and therefore well able to fulfill the role as laid upon it over many years and as described in QFP? GMS is asked to consider the concerns outlined above and discern whether it is appropriate to take further action.

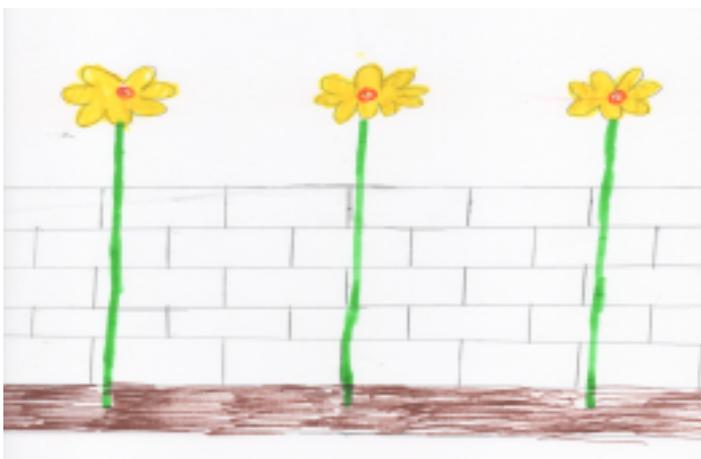
*Other items to be discussed include: reports from GM representatives to outside bodies and the personal experience of our ecumenical and interfaith representatives.*

On 6 February, GM agreed that: **Blended meetings will be a continuing element of Meetings after lockdown.** *Reasons included:* attending a meeting by Zoom makes it more accessible to Friends with transport constraints and those who are unwell or physically infirm. Over the last year, this has resulted in a significant increase in those attending our Meetings for Worship and our meetings for church affairs. The presence of some Friends from other parts of the country and the world has strengthened our family of Friends. Travel to Quaker meetings is costly in terms of the planet, our finances and our personal time and energy. Zoom meetings have reduced these costs.

GM agreed we must guard against blended meetings leading to inequalities between participants who are physically present and those attending virtually. Protocols and guidelines might help.

*96 people, including 8 attenders, attended the Zoom Meeting.*

**Message from the children: 'We look forward to the time we can all be together again and meet in our meeting house':**



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## **Other...**

The American Friends Service Committee(AFSC) and Quaker Peace & Social Witness (QPSW) have nominated two organisations – Mwatana for Human Rights and Campaign Against Arms Trade (CAAT) – for the 2021 Nobel Peace Prize.

In 1947, the Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to the Friends Service Council (the precursor to QPSW) and AFSC on behalf of Quakers worldwide for their work during and after the two world wars to feed starving children and help Europe rebuild itself. The organisations use their nomination to highlight the work of others continuing the vital work of peacebuilding.

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## **Memorial Minute: Gerard Walmesley 30 June 1926 – 20 April 2020**

Gerard was born into a Quaker family, growing up in Perth. At the age of eighteen he registered as a conscientious objector, spending three years from 1945-48 in China with the Friends Ambulance Unit. On returning to Scotland he studied architecture at the Edinburgh College of Art, marrying Dorothy, an art student in 1954. He and Dorothy and their three children worshipped with Edinburgh (Stafford Street) Friends Meeting, with Gerard serving the Meeting as an overseer for about eight years from 1979 and as an elder for several years in the 1990s.

Gerard and Dorothy moved to Culross in Fife in 1978 but Gerard continued to be active in the Edinburgh Meeting. He is remembered as wearing a bow tie – he used to take dinner with Cathy and Tom Bell before attending overseers' evening meetings (which he clerked) in Friends' homes. At this time the Meeting was growing, especially with incoming families, and the need for larger premises became increasingly urgent. Gerard had been a partner at the Gordon & Dey architectural partnership in Liberton since 1962 and it was inevitable that he should become involved with premises matters. Years of searching eventually resulted in Friends' discovery of 7 Victoria Terrace in 1986.

This was followed by about ten years of constant work on behalf of Friends, starting with the purchase of the properties ("Kirk House", the headquarters of the Boys Brigade, plus the top flat on 6 Upper Bow), their complete renovation and interior remodelling, followed eventually in the 1990s by external and interior work commissioned by the Edinburgh Council to repair and refurbish the tenement known as "5, 6 and 7 Upper Bow". Gerard worked with Friends to think about all their emerging needs, from the requirements for the four children's groups on Sundays, to the needs of groups hiring rooms and the intricate permissions needed for providing a Fringe venue every August. Today it is hard to remember that when Friends purchased the building in 1987 there were no foyers to the hall or the meeting room - the latter being reached by a narrow open stair climbing the east wall of the hall, or by an open spiral staircase at the hall's west end; that there was no lift; and that the ground floor entrance was provided by a doorway from Upper Bow itself.

In 1990 Gerard remarried, partnering both in his private and professional life with Jeanne Savage, also an active and participatory member of the Quaker Meeting. The new firm Walmesley & Savage undertook the interior decoration and furnishing of the new Quaker Meeting House, ensuring that bright colours and simple furniture were deployed respectfully but cheerfully throughout the building.

Considering how much time he must have devoted to the needs of Friends it can be easy to forget that Gerard pursued his architectural career with other clients at the same time. He became President of the Edinburgh Architectural Association in 1973 and went on to oversee restoration work on many historic churches and schools in southern Scotland, especially in his home town of Perth where his work included the restoration of the Perth Theatre. A particularly appreciative note has been received from the Session Clerk of St John's Kirk, the oldest building in Perth, where Gerard served as architectural advisor in the 1980s and 1990s.

Gerard and Jeanne continued to serve the Meeting well into their retirement – nourishing Sunday soups being a speciality! Jeanne followed in Gerard's steps as an overseer, and particularly enjoyed the quilting

undertaken by many members of the Meeting in the 1990s. But sadly, as they grew older, Gerard became increasingly immobile and eventually in 2014 he and Jeanne moved south to Littlehampton, to be closer to Gerard's eldest daughter Jane, and her family.

Our thoughts are with Gerard's children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, but particularly with Gerard's daughter Anna who returned to Edinburgh after nine years in Texas in December 2015. Anna had been an active member of Aberdeen Meeting from 1978 to 2006 and now she has stepped into Gerard's shoes as a faithful and supportive member of our Quaker Meeting in Central Edinburgh.

*Meeting thanked John Phillips and Anna Phillips for their work and agree to forward this Memorial Minute to Area Meeting and to Littlehampton Local Meeting.*

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## **MEETINGS BY ZOOM**

### **Our Zoom link on Sundays continues to be:**

<https://zoom.us/j/121083985?pwd=emF6UWo0blpwUG1FUTN0SjlISDkwdz09> Password: george  
South Edinburgh.

**11 and 25 March:** Epilogue. 30 mins worship, followed by time for chat, hot chocolate etc. 9pm:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88245289431?pwd=Tm5NR0Znc3ZUT3NIMUw3c0pRa0wxQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 4528 9431 Passcode: Cocoa Join by phone: 0131 460 1196

**28 February:** North Edinburgh worshipping group. (Meets 4th Sunday of every month). 7pm. About 30 mins followed by chat. Any questions, ask Tony Gross on 0131 550 0851.

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/76842175660?pwd=dXdPWXNJclZtWWR5QkpEU1g4MHFRZz09>

ID: 768 4217 5660 Password: 3DzjP3

### **OTHER MEETINGS:**

**Central Fife** – for login details contact Laurie Naumann

On the 2nd, 4th and 5th Sundays at 10.30 am

**East Lothian** – for login details contact Di Simcock, Wednesdays at 7.30 pm.

**North Edinburgh worship group** – for login details contact Tony Gross, 4th Sunday in the month at 7pm.

**Penicuik** – for login details contact Mark Hutcheson, 1st Sunday in the month at 11am.

**Polmont** – for login details contact Mariot Dallas, Sundays at 10.45; preceded by Children's Meeting, 10.00-10.30. Wednesdays at 8pm.

**Portobello & Musselburgh** – for login details contact Mary Jane Elton 2nd and 4th Sundays at 11am.

**South Edinburgh** – Some 20 or so Friends each week have been joining Sunday meeting at 10.30am.

For the link, contact Sandra Riddell, 0131 446 3663.

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*Terrace Talk* is published normally on the last Sunday of each month. Please provide copy for the next issue by **end of Tuesday 23 March**. Please include complete and accurate information, and contact name and phone number. Send copy in plain text form to [teditors@gmail.com](mailto:teditors@gmail.com). We appreciate Quaker simplicity. To unsubscribe, e-mail editors. We also welcome comments and feedback.

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