

Tayside Quaker

Vol 50 No2 April 2025

INSPIRED BY FAITH



TO BUILD A
MORE EQUAL
WORLD



Find out more at
www.quaker.org.uk



Contents

Editorial	Page 2
Swarthmoor Lecture Opportunity	Page 2
Report on the East Scotland Area Meeting Feb 2025	Page 4
Meeting for Sufferings March 1st 2025	Page 5
Gleanings	Page 6
QCEA Events	Page 9
East Scotland Area Meeting, Perth 12th April 2025	Page 10

Tayside Quaker is available by email and on paper. If you would like to be added to the email list, please contact the editor at petercheer@hotmail.com

If you get Tayside Quaker by email, you have the advantages of receiving it earlier and seeing the pictures in colour. It also saves the AM money.

Contributions are welcome, closing date for the next edition is 26 July 2025

Please send copy to the editor, Peter Cheer

petercheer@hotmail.com

East Scotland Area Meeting

Scottish charity number SC0020698

All opinions in Tayside Quaker are those of the individual writers and not necessarily of The Religious Society of Friends.

Editorial

Cover a Quaker poster. A shorter than usual edition but I hope it is of interest.

Swarthmoor Lecture Opportunity

Less Than 2 Months Until The 2025 Swarthmore Lecture



There are less than two months to go until Emily Provance delivers the 2025 Swarthmore Lecture on *The Meaning of Quaker Community*.

Emily's lecture will take place on Saturday 24 May as part of Britain Yearly Meeting and will also be live streamed on the Woodbrooke YouTube Channel.

Would You Like to Help Discern the Topics of Future Swarthmore Lectures?

Woodbrooke are currently seeking those with interest and enthusiasm to join the Swarthmore Lecture Committee. The Swarthmore Lecture Committee is responsible for discerning the themes and the lecturers for

the annual Swarthmore Lecture. Committee members also support the lecturer through the preparation and delivery of the spoken lecture and with any associated materials. This is a lively committee and meets both online and in person. If you want to know more we would love to hear from you.

For more information see: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/service or email noms@woodbrooke.org.uk.

Report on the East Scotland Area Meeting Feb 2025

The East Scotland Area Meeting was held via Zoom on Saturday 15th February 2025.

Robin Waterston was Clerk and Alice Curteis was Assistant Clerk.

We reviewed our statement of numbers as reported to Britain Yearly Meeting. This is more or less unchanged since last year.

We reviewed our financial position, which seems to be steady as she goes. During her presentation Treasurer Pam Brunt on the Zoom subtitles was renamed Rembrandt. She is of course an artist with the figures.

A welcome was given to our new Members Gavin Waterston and Danni Orr, both to be part of St Andrews Local Meeting.

We approved the nominations of Bel Ingham as an Elder for Dundee Local Meeting and Craig Wilson as a Pastoral Friend for Dundee Local Meeting. We were particularly happy to note that both the new Members and the new Role Holders are younger Members of our Meeting.

We discussed our priorities for the Parliamentary Engagement Officer and Working Group for 2026-2028. Richard Raggett and Carolyn Burch introduced the discussion paper addressing this. With the Scottish Parliamentary elections next spring, there is an opportunity for our Parliamentary Engagement Officer, Sarah Komashko, to be involved in discussing the parties' manifestos.

Important points were scapegoating, economic injustice, the use of social media, and the climate emergency. An important part of this work is to engage with MSPs as human being doing a difficult job and letting them know we notice it and appreciate it when they follow their consciences, and work across parties where possible.

Richard and Carolyn's significant experience, knowledge and skill in this area was evident and much appreciated.

We are encouraged to include Sarah Komashko in any communication with MSPs. Her email address is SarahK@quaker.org.uk.

Norman Alm Dundee Local Meeting

Meeting for Sufferings March 1st 2025

Meeting for Sufferings held on 26/2/25 (Pre-Meeting evening session online) and Saturday March 1st at Friends House and online.

The pre-Meeting Zoom session on Wednesday evening allowed time for discussion on Minutes received from Area Meetings on matters covering the Use of Religious Language, the Israel-Gaza war and Quaker Concern for Over Population. This Meeting was attended by around forty five Friends.

The March 1st full session was attended by around ninety Friends, spread evenly on Zoom and in Friends House. I attended in person. After Business matters the morning was taken up with a number of reports. Sufferings heard the annual report from the Quaker Committee for Christian and Interfaith Relations. We were reminded that there have been many differences between groups involved with this work but it was vital to continue peace building and focusing on what we can do together. Work was on going on antisemitism and Reparations.

Our Friend, Adwoa Burnley, Clerk of Yearly Meeting then reported on the agenda for YM 2025 and urged Friends to encourage others to consider attending. She asked for discussions on "...discipline and expectations" relating to the Quaker business method. YM 25 will "look out to the state of the world".

Sufferings then heard the Triennial Report from the Quaker Housing Trust. The Trust was established in 1967 in response to a housing crisis to give Quaker money, on behalf of Quakers, to local housing projects that Friends would wish to support. The period covered by the report has seen help give to sixteen separate projects in Scotland, Wales and England.

Finally before lunch the Meeting heard from BYM Trustees. Trustees have sent a Minute to the Book of Discipline Revision Committee requesting text on the spiritual roots of giving. Should encouraging financial donations be a duty of Area Meetings? Work is being done by BYM staff to take this further.

Following lunch the afternoon session time was spent looking at preparing for our new continuing Yearly Meeting sessions. Sufferings considered the representation and financial support for those attending. Funding arrangements for Sufferings would continue for YM but Area Meetings would be asked to help if possible.

Oliver Robertson from BYM staff reported next on work being done on the climate emergency by looking at the involvement of Living Witness and Quaker Support for Climate Action.

The afternoon session concluded with consideration of Quaker reaction to new Police powers regarding protest and demonstration. A number of concerns and examples were offered by Friends and it was agreed that this issue would be returned to for further discernment by Meeting for Sufferings.

Robert Thompson

ESAM Representative

Gleanings

Late last year I found time to follow up an interest in Liberation Theology. Which naturally lead to South and Central America where this movement started but lead me back to the website of the Govan based Quaker Alistair McIntosh Where I found this from 2006, that he has generously let me reprint

The full text of *Spiral of Violence* by Helder Camara (a short and stimulating read) can be found at <https://alastairmcintosh.com/general/spiral-of-violence.htm#BBC>

Peter Cheer

BBC Radio Scotland - Thought for the Day

Alastair McIntosh, 1 August 2006 – *Spiral of Violence*

My youth was during the Vietnam era, and I have to confess that as a hawkish young man I found war rather exciting. I remember going to Aberdeen University and seeing a poster that said, “War is not good for children and other living things,” and it irritated me for its naivety.

But there were rather a lot of posters like this, and, worked on by my valiant if few-and-far-between girlfriends, I gradually started to think in new ways that chipped away at the armour round my heart.

One of the most influential poster voices was a Brazilian archbishop called Helder Camara. He’d come out with things like - why is it that “When I give food to the poor they call me a saint. [But] when I ask why the poor have no food they call me a communist”?

I wonder how many of today’s politicians realise that when talking about the “spiral of violence” in the Middle East, they’re drawing on Camara, who published a little book by that name in 1971?

He observed that violence builds up at three levels in a society. Primary violence is the everyday effect of structurally ingrained social injustice. This generates secondary violence - the revolt of the oppressed. And that in turn

provokes tertiary violence - repression by the powerful to secure their privileged position. And so the spiral of violence tightens.

After years of being out of print, Archbishop Camara's little book is now going on the web. It culminates with an "appeal to youth", saying that wars happen because of the egotism of adults, and he urges the youth to, "provoke discussions [and] force people to think and take up a position: let it be uncomfortable, like truth, demanding, like justice."

Whether Lebanese or Israeli, war is not good for children and other living things, and the children are always innocent. Camara's last word is for them: "With you I must remain young in my soul," he said, "and keep the hope and love I need to help all humanity."

QCEA Events

Moving with Dignity Handbook: Online Launch

Registrations open!

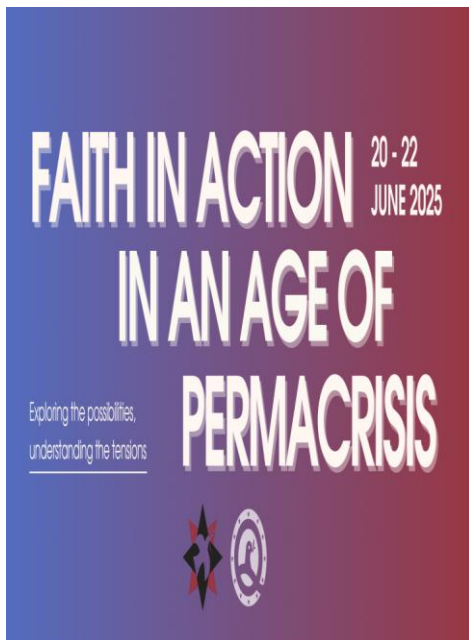


Description

The QCEA Team warmly invites you to the online launch of our latest handbook, Moving with Dignity: a positive peace approach to migration. This handbook offers a fresh perspective on migration—one rooted in positive peace, addressing not only direct violence but also the structural and cultural injustices that make migration unsafe, exploitative, and undignified.

Majbritt Lyck-Bowen, the author, will explain the principles behind the approach and you'll hear about some of the promising practices featured in the handbook.

- **Date:** Wednesday, April 23, 2025
- **Time:** 14.00 CEST/13.00 BST
- **Place:** Zoom
- Register [HERE](#)



REGISTRATION OPEN! Faith in action in an age of permacrisis Exploring the possibilities, understanding the tensions

Description

You are invited to participate in this conference, jointly organised by QPSW and QCEA, in Brussels. It is an opportunity to acknowledge the challenges we face and to reflect together on how we respond to them, individually and collectively. You will:

- Learn more about Quaker work on climate justice, community peace work and alternatives to militarism
- Explore how and why Quakers work in different ways at different times and in different contexts and how we manage tensions in our work.
- Consider new and effective ways in which you can be involved at local, national and international levels.
- Get to know Quakers from across Europe who want to work for social change

Space is limited so please register as soon as possible [here](#).

- **Date:** 20-22 June 2025
- **Place:** Chant d'Oiseau, Avenue des Fransiscains, 1150 Brussels

- [Agenda](#)
- Register [HERE](#)

East Scotland Area Meeting, Perth, 12th April 2025

Dear Friends,

The next Area Meeting will take place at the Subud Centre, Perth and by zoom at 10.30 am on Saturday 12th April.

Please come, and do encourage others to join also. All are welcome.

In friendship, Robin Waterston, Clerk.

Use this link to join the meeting:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85712065979?pwd=OE9TNFRpMWxzM0FhL2RnMkhScWhmUT09>

Meeting ID: 857 1206 5979 Passcode: 735170

Meetings for Worship

Please note that alternative arrangements are in operation at present.

Dundee: The Meeting House, 9 Whitehall Crescent, Dundee DD1 4AR
Sundays 11.00 am – 12 noon, followed by tea and coffee.

On the first Sunday of each month the meeting will be a blended one, with attendance possible via Zoom.

St Andrews Meeting House, 2 Howard Place, St Andrews KY16 9HL
Sundays 10.30 am
Children's Meeting - each Sunday during school terms
Enquiries: Genevieve Orr (01333 360396)
Midweek Meeting, Thursdays 1.15 – 1.45pm

Perth: The Subud Centre, 7 St Leonard's Bank, Perth PH2 8EB
Second and last Sundays of each month
Meeting for worship 11.00 – 12 noon, followed by tea and coffee.

Arrangements for children on 2nd Sundays (Contact Anneke Kraakman 07746 117762)

Occasional all age worship (on fourth Sundays in five Sunday months – check details with correspondent)

ESAM Light Group: meets the first Sunday of the month at 10.30, via Zoom. New members always welcome. Contact enidharding@icloud.com for further information.

General Meeting for Scotland

7 June 2025 Aberdeen and online

East of Scotland Area Meeting

Saturday 9th August 2025, Dundee, blended

Saturday 22nd November 2025, St Andrews,