



SOUTH EDINBURGH MEETING

October 2026



Altered landscape from Blackford Hill (p4)

MEETINGS FOR WORSHIP

We meet on **Sundays 10.30-11.30 am** at the Open Door, 420 Morningside Road, and remotely by Zoom (hybrid).

Recent notices and late changes are sent by weekly email. Contacting Sandra Riddell in person – details at www.quaker.scot/south-edinburgh

Children are welcome anytime. For details of planned activities, see online.

On the **First Thursday** of each month a few Friends may meet for 30 min at 7.30 pm by Zoom, followed by chat.

Other local meetings

Central Edinburgh and Portobello-Musselburgh are closest. For full info, times, and a map, see www.quaker.scot

Several South Edinburgh Friends also attend **Midweek Meeting on Wednesdays**, 12.30 for 30 mins at Victoria Terrace meeting house. Tea and coffee available, you can eat your packed lunch.

SPECIAL COLLECTION

Our charity in October is **Quaker Peace and Social Witness** which works long term to tackle the root causes of violence and to build a more just and peaceful world. www.quaker.org.uk/action has much more information and a Donate button.

QUAKER EVENTS

Latest updates at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

SES Area Meeting will be held on **Sat 3 Oct**, 11-3.30, Falkirk/Polmont. *There's a clash with ...*

Inquirers Day – a Scotland-wide day will be held in Perth on **Sat 3 Oct**, 10-3. For those who have been attending for a while. Free, book at <https://bit.ly/4ii1a8X> *And there's a second clash ...*

Jack and Khadea are getting married! Edinburgh Steiner School, **Sat 3 Oct** at 12 noon.

Quaker Week 26 Sep – 4 Oct (Quaker Day).

More:

<https://fwcc.world/event/worldquakerday2026>

Becoming Benjamin Lay – radical Quaker campaigner and abolitionist 1682-1759.

Documentary and discussion at Edinburgh Meeting House, **Wed 7 Oct** 7-9 pm. More details and booking at <https://bit.ly/4zQLjEs>

Mental Health: What does love require of us?

Subud Centre, Perth, 10-4.30 on **Sat 10 Oct**.

Organised by St Andrew's Friends. Details on p3.

Time for reflection at the Royal Ed – 11.15 am for 30 mins of music, texts, songs, and silence on

Fri 16 Oct at the Spiritual Care dept, Mackinnon House, Royal Edinburgh Hospital. Contact Ros Robertson.

Peace and Consciousness study day, 10:00-16:00 on **Sat 17 Oct** at Victoria Terrace. Hosted by Central Edinburgh, organised by Jean Kenyon and Susan Kime. <https://bit.ly/3TohvyL> for more info and to book. *Clashes with ...*

Outreach workshop – Second event: practical help with outreach. **Sat 17 Oct** 10-1 (tea/coffee from 10.30) at St Columba's by the Castle, 14 Johnston Terrace EH1 2PV. Contact Elizabeth Allen essallen@msn.com and Rosemary Hartill rosemary.hartill@btinternet.com to book.

Quakers in Scotland (QiS) online meeting on **Sat 24 Oct**. Details by email. *Next meeting is in-person and online in Edinburgh on Sat 3 Nov (p4)*

Book group at 2pm on **Thur 29 Oct** – *A Different Kind of Power* by Jacinda Ardern, former prime minister of New Zealand.

From Rachel Frith of Edinburgh Central: b

Coffee at Rachel's house, 10.15 – 12.30 first and third Thursdays. Please contact her in advance, rachelfrith162@gmail.com or as in book.

Central Book Group third Sundays after meeting and soup. October: *Mother Mary Comes To Me* by Arundhati Roy..

Notes from Local Meeting for Business on 13 Sep 2026

Full Minutes have been circulated by email, but key points were:

- QiS as our AM. We have previously sent a minute to AM indicating that we would like to join QiS as soon as feasible. We reiterated that and request a firm timescale for a decision from SESAM.
- Meetings with our MP and MSPs are being pursued, hoping for dates in October, November.
- Our Meeting averaged 23 in person attendees over 2026 so far, with numbers ranging between 18 and 29. 3 meetings had less than 20 and 6 had more than 25.
- 5th Sunday in November, 29 Nov – we will seek to hold this in the Chaplaincy Centre at the Royal Edinburgh Hospital, with an 11 am start and someone to redirect from the Open Door.
- We supported further pressure for an Ecocide bill.
- There's a potential vacancy for a Friend to join the trustees for the Open Door.
- We're supporting a talk by Matthew Bittle about peacemaking in Palestine, at Edinburgh Meeting House on 29 Sep.
- Meeting for Learning dates and topics are in preparation.
- Next meeting: **Sun 6 December**.

A meeting on a train

Sheila Taylor, secretary of Quaker Socialist Society and organiser of the annual Salter Lectures, shared this on the Quaker Palestine Solidarity Chat, and in a letter in The Friend 11 September. Via David Somervell:

Graham and I had an unbelievably moving experience on Saturday. On a train from Waterloo to Dorset, our compartment filled up with a group of lively young children and adults. They looked like Arabs, so we asked where they were from and were amazed to be told Gaza!

The charity ACC Britain helps families who've been brought here for medical treatment and were taking some of them for a weekend in Bournemouth. The supervisors told us that the lovely lad sitting next to me had a sister who'd lost one arm and both legs, and the boy next to Graham had a sister who'd had half her face destroyed.

I could hardly speak enough to tell them that we supported Palestine and were desperate that we couldn't stop what was happening. But they denied that we were useless, said that what we did helped keep them alive, that they knew they weren't forgotten because they could see our marches. It was heartbreaking.

When they got off and walked along the platform at Bournemouth we saw that one little girl had an arm missing. Yet they were all such normal friendly, happy, noisy children. I can hardly bear to write about it.

Chemical weapons, Winston Churchill, Wonder Woman

A visit to Dominick Jenkins includes an art show. A recent focus of his work has been the secret development and deployment of new chemical weapons via 'M devices' in Northern Russia in 1919, promoted by Winston Churchill. There is an uncanny parallel with the plot of the 2017 movie Wonder Woman – except that in that film, the plot was German. A story that deserves longer and more richly illustrated telling.



Quakers online: can't stop them now

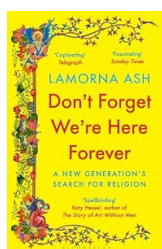
Discovering Quakers - Simple questions answered concisely at www.discoveringquakers.org.uk

- Do Quakers still believe in God?
- Are Quakers Christian?
- Is Quakerism a cult?

But you may want longer answers. Try these, in addition to or instead of official channels:

Emma Roberts has an excellent series of long form interviews on her *Quakerology* channel www.youtube.com/@Quakerology She has become quite famous for her resemblance to the Prime Minister, so now also answers to 'Mandy Burnham'.

Craig Barnett is a Quaker local development worker in Sheffield who has put a good few provocative and interesting thoughts online. His main platform is *Quaker Renewal* on Substack, but he has some thought-provoking things also at his earlier *Transition Quaker* site. <https://quakerrenewal.substack.com> and <https://transitionquaker.blogspot.com>



Lamorna Ash is a young journalist who has been popping up all over the place following publication of her book *Don't Forget We're Here Forever*. There she writes deeply and grippingly of her conversations with young people about their Christian conversions, alongside her own spiritual journey. She isn't a Quaker, but both in the book and online a good proportion of the discussion is about Quakers. We come out of it well, Friends. Some other groups not so well. This condensed extract describes her first Quaker ministry:

The call to speak grew more urgent in me, like I was running the cost of losing something important if I missed my chance. My heart was beating faster ... and I couldn't be sure if this was because the idea of ministering was daunting, or because something deeper and more unfamiliar was going on inside me. I repeated what I might say in my head, clarifying and distilling the phrases until they had reached their neatest articulation ... three, two, one – stand up, and then I was breaking through a wave, and everyone was looking up at me and there was no way back down except through speech.

I said my piece, three sentences at most. It came out slowly, with breaks between the lines. My eyes were shut before I made it back into my chair. I felt emptied out.

Some minutes later, another Friend stood. 'I thank our Friend,' she said, her arm stretched out towards me. 'I am reminded of the story of the burning bush,' she said, 'that the scripture states, "the bush burned with fire, and the bush was not consumed".' Then she sat down again.

I thought, *Here I am*. Really. I wasn't before. My feet on the ground.

Conventional again, but **Woodbrooke** has a good series of courses and events coming up. Singling out two:

- **The Quaker renaissance in Britain 1880-1930** Wed evenings 30 Sep – 4 Nov. Is it time for something similar again? Some are asking.
- **The history of our book of discipline** – three online sessions 17 Nov to 1 Dec.

But there are also things on nominations, money, non-violence, clerking, stitching, and residential events in the Lake District and Somerset. A two-year programme *Equipping for Ministry* has 20 online sessions and some whole days and residential weekends in Leeds, but applications for a start in Dec 2026 have closed. Notify your interest for the next one at <https://woodbrooke.beaconforms.com/form/75faf46b>

Mental Health: What does love require of us?

Sat 10 Oct (see page 1) in Perth; Subud Centre, 10-4.30. Led by Rosemary Roberts, one of the authors of the book *Quaker Voices on Mental Health* a copy of which has been sent to each Meeting. Also available as a free download at <https://quakervoicesonmh.org.uk/activities/qvomh-book>

Chapters 6, 9 and 12 will form the basis for discussion groups. These focus on risk and resilience, supporting those with dementia, for the individual, their families and carers – but the format will allow for flexibility.

Organised by St Andrews Friends hoping to attract Friends across Scotland. The event is funded by the Camfield Trust and lunch and refreshments are provided. To book contact Pamela Brunt pambrunt128@gmail.com mentioning any dietary requirements.

Other news and future events

Do Not Pass Go – Deirdre promotes this dramatization of the invention of the board game Monopoly by Lizzie Magie, who has a good Wikipedia page. A community of Quakers played a large part in developing and spreading it in its initial anti-monopoly form. **Wed-Thur 21-22 Oct.** www.capitaltheatres.com/shows/do-not-pass-go

Accommodation requests – Central Edinburgh's weekly messages recently included 3 short to medium-term requests for accommodation. Ask them or Neil if you'd like to hear more.

Quakers in Scotland in-person in Edinburgh – all day **Sat 7 Nov** at 7 Victoria Terrace. Details by email. There will be opportunities for anyone in SESAM who has questions or concerns or is just interested to ask questions of trustees and role holders and trustees.

Stop Climate Chaos Scotland parliamentary reception **Tue 10 Nov** 6-8pm. They are looking for people who would be keen to attend and who would be happy to email their MSP(s) in advance and ask them to attend as well. Request at <https://bit.ly/4h7KqAg>

The People's Emergency – this film about the climate emergency will be screened at Edinburgh Meeting House on **Sat 14 Nov** followed by discussion on actions. *Volunteers sought to help with organisation* – contact Janet Saunders jsaunders6@icloud.com

'The work that reconnects' as a residential workshop at Wiston Lodge near Biggar, **Fri 13-15 Nov**. Chris Booth, Jane Lewis and Lesley Morrison promise silent worship, time spent in the natural world, mindfulness, ritual, poetry and song. All welcome, including children and teens. Questions and signup via Lesley Morrison lesleyjmorrison3@gmail.com

Those massive yellow towers (front page) are North not South Edinburgh, but prominent from here. After gathering slowly at Leith, an Autumn migration to their final location West of Orkney is scheduled. There they will support wind turbines of the Inch Cape offshore wind farm. More info and videos at www.inchcapewind.com

More events at <https://bit.ly/SEdQuakEvents>

Quote

Rose Macaulay (Personal Pleasures, 1935)

I shall not be ill-pleased should the Spirit move no one this morning.

Happy Birthday

October birthdays of notable Quakers include:

William Penn (382y, 1644), friend of George Fox and of kings, colleague of Samuel Pepys, founder of Pennsylvania.

John Woolman (306y, 1720) Slavery abolitionist.

Levi Coffin (228y, 1798) Underground Railroad leader.

Benjamin West (268y, 1738) noted history painter.



Penn's treaty with the Indians, Benjamin West 1772. (Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts, Philadelphia)

How I became a Quaker (1)



My mother made me a Quaker – Lesley Webster, Friends House librarian 1972-8, in her 1978 book *Our Foolish Ways*.

Our newsletter is published near the last Sunday each month. Niche expertise and eccentric interest-based content to neilturn@gmail.com
Find this edition, plus archives of previous, at www.quaker.scot/south-edinburgh