

# Equipping for Ministry



A two year course on living as a  
Quaker in the world today



**Woodbrooke**  
Quaker Study Centre

## What past participants say...



*"I am always keen to recommend EFM to Friends. The programme provided me with an invaluable time of discovery, inspiration and fellowship. I feel that what I gained from EFM will continue to bear fruit for many years to come."*

**Stuart Masters**

*"I really value the flexible structure of Efm. I could never have guessed where this journey would take me, so this feels important. Tutors and fellow students have been truly generous in their support, sharing their knowledge and experience without pressure or expectation."*

**Anna Baker**



*"The Efm journey led me through some deep and unexpected places but my personal tutor was always around to support and cheer me on. I made lasting friendships on the course and now find myself taking on roles I would never have thought possible before."*

**Eleanor Jackson**

*"Efm gave me a grounding about what Quakerism is about which enabled me to be of use to my Local Meeting. I found the whole process very enriching, both spiritually and personally."*

**Edith Jayne**



*"With the first week's residential of the Efm, my creative life took off. It now includes things I had never done before; journalling, writing poems, remembering dreams and drawing pictures. I do not know where all this creativity has sprung from. Efm has certainly changed - and continues to change - my life."*

**Stephen Cox**

## A two year course on living as a Quaker in the world today

EFM is a flexible programme to provide a more sustained approach to Quaker Studies at Woodbrooke. It is a two year part time course structured around time spent at Woodbrooke and personal study time at home.

The course is for anyone who is active in their local Meeting and who wants to think more about what it is to be part of that Meeting and the wider society.

It aims to give you a solid grounding in thinking about what it is to be a Quaker in the world today and how you are personally to live out that calling.

This course is designed to benefit both you and your Meeting. In a group without a separated priesthood, it is important that we are all properly prepared to play our part in Meeting life and as Friends in the wider world. The course is certificated by Woodbrooke.

It is designed for Quakers in Europe but is highly relevant for those in the unprogrammed tradition.

### Requirements

The course starts with an Induction weekend in January when you will meet the rest of your year group. We take up to 20 people each year but it is usually a group of about 15.

In each of your two years you are required to attend a residential week. One year this is held just before Easter and the alternate year in July. Both year groups study at Woodbrooke together and each has their own programme.

In addition it uses the short course programme, with its great variety of subject areas and you have to choose six of these. You will meet other Friends on these courses and study with them, although there may be other EFM participants in the group.

When you enroll on the Equipping for Ministry course you will be assigned a personal tutor. Your personal tutor will meet with you on your induction weekend and you will arrange further meetings to suit you. Your tutor will be the first point of contact and will meet with you regularly encouraging you to think about your study and what you are discovering through the course.

Between visits to Woodbrooke, you can choose, with help from your tutor, your own area of study and work on this at home. This time for personal work is essential as it gives time for exploration and reflection.

To mark the end of the two years there is a Completion weekend. Over the two years you become part of the Woodbrooke community and gain from being a regular visitor and sharing in the worshipping life.



## Curriculum

Equipping for Ministry has three core themes:

*The Evolving Tradition* includes the history of Friends worldwide and the issues which face us in our claim that all of life is sacramental.

*Experience of the Spirit* includes topics such as prayer, worship, discernment, sources of inspiration, and sources of authority.

*Engagement with the World* looks at testimonies, witness and action; living our faith in today's world.

The course is designed to give you a thorough grounding in aspects of all three themes: to give you information, to help you reflect on your own experience, and to help nurture your own ministry.

## Costs

There are two elements in the course fees. First you pay for each of the 8 courses you attend in the usual way. In 2010 courses start at £162 each, and the residential week will be about £460.

Second there is a registration fee paid in two equal annual payments. This is £162 each year. It covers the costs of tutor support and administration. The total cost is in the region of £2,500 but this depends on the courses you chose. There is an arrangement to spread the total cost by making regular monthly payments if this is preferable.

Woodbrooke has a bursary fund offered on all courses and there are details in the Course Brochure. You may find that your Local or Area Meeting offers bursary help for courses or travel costs and you could apply to them for support for your EFM programme. It is a course about living faithfully in the world and giving service to the Society and the wider world. We hope that a way can be found for those who want to take the course to do so.

We ask you to include with your form a letter from an Elder in your meeting, acknowledging and supporting the application. We hope that this will encourage local support so that you do not feel isolated when away from Woodbrooke.

## Dates

Induction for Equipping for Ministry is 8 - 10 January 2010 and 7 - 9 January 2011  
The residential weeks are 23 July – 30 July 2010 and 15 - 22 April 2011.

There are up to 20 places each year and you can send your application form at any time during the year to:

Judith Jenner, Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ.

For more information please contact Judith Jenner by email [judith.jenner@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:judith.jenner@woodbrooke.org.uk) or by telephoning 0121 415 6781.

## Current EFM Tutors

**Timothy Peat Ashworth** draws from different stages of his spiritual journey in his current role as Biblical Studies Tutor at Woodbrooke: including childhood in the Anglican Church, work as a Catholic priest, and many years practising eastern meditation.

**Chris Cook** is a facilitator of Applesseed courses, at Woodbrooke and elsewhere.

**Vera Dolton** is married with children and grandchildren, has attended Quaker Meeting since 1986, has experience as an elder, clerk, and on Meetings for Sufferings, and has a special concern for both one-to-one and group spiritual nurture.

**Michael Eccles** is a member of Central England AM and worked as an Associate Tutor for Woodbrooke before his recent appointment as part-time Tutor for Quaker Roles & Responsibilities. He has been a Quaker all his life and has served on committees locally, nationally and internationally and is interested in maintaining links with and learning from Friends worldwide.

**Brenda Heales** runs Applesseed courses at Woodbrooke and elsewhere.

**Symon Hill** is Woodbrooke's Tutor in Practical Theology and QPSW Tutor. He has a campaigning background and spent three years overseeing media relations for the Campaign Against Arms Trade. His interests include Testimony, pacifism, communication and the spiritual basis of activism.

**Christopher Holdsworth** is a life-long Friend, and a retired but still active medieval historian. He has contacts with other branches of Christianity particularly through experience of monasticism.

**Michael Hutchinson** started worshipping with Friends in 1967, and since then has been around the Society in various guises, including a monthly meeting clerk, a member of the former Woodbrooke Council, overseer and working full time as Assistant Recording Clerk based in Friends House. There he has special responsibility for advising on church government.

**Eleanor Jackson** is a member of Central England Area Meeting and has completed the Equipping for Ministry course. She is especially interested in the ways that adults learn, and in the balance between mysticism and practical living.

**Judith Jenner** asks questions of herself and others and sees herself as an inquirer asking 'but what canst thou say?' In her current role as Tutor In Quaker Studies she wants to encourage people to engage with Quaker faith and practice

**Angela Kyte** has been a Quaker for 40 years, an Elder for the last 6 years, and completed Equipping for Ministry in January 2008.

**Estella Lovett** has a Buddhist background but is interested in the contemplative experience and how it is expressed in different traditions, in the similarities that connect traditions and in the differences that enrich us all.

**Pam Lunn** has a background in peace and development work, personal and spiritual growth facilitation, feminist theology and journalling

**Stuart Masters** is one of Woodbrooke's Senior Programme Leaders. He completed the EFM programme in January 2009 and found the experience both challenging and inspiring. He worked for 23 years in social housing and has a strong commitment to co-operatives and social enterprise. His interests include Quaker history and theology, New Testament theology and ethics, discipleship and the faith and practice of the historic peace churches.

**Marion McNaughton** was a tutor at Woodbrooke for 10 years, teaching courses in Discernment, Social Justice and Interfaith Understanding. She is a trustee of the Joseph Rowntree Charitable Trust.

**Shelagh Robinson** came to Friends from Roman Catholicism. Working in counselling and the training and supervision of counsellors her commitment is to deepening eldership and oversight and sharing our exploration and experience of God in our lives.

**Lizz Roe** is one of Woodbrooke's Senior Programme Leaders. She grew up in a Catholic/Hindu household and came to Quakers via the Anglican church, Buddhism, and Paganism, and a long period of 'walking the desert'. She completed EfM in February 2007.

**Helen Rowlands** is Woodbrooke's Head of Education. She is particularly interested helping groups of Friends develop a sense of purpose and find their way forward to become more vibrant faith communities. Quaker identity, decision-making and human relationships all play a part in this.

**Jill Stow** has been a member of the Religious Society of Friends for nearly 40 years. At various times she has served as elder, overseer, PM clerk and MM assistant clerk. As an EFM student from 1997-1999, she made a special study of spirituality and dementia. Jill is a retired counsellor and social worker and currently involved with various projects at Woodbrooke and the Area Meeting

**Alex Wildwood** is an Associate Tutor at Woodbrooke who has spent the past five years exploring the spiritual diversity of British Friends, often working with Timothy Peat Ashworth at Woodbrooke and on-the-road.

**Leonora Wilson** has worked in charitable and faith communities, is trained in music and literature, and is particularly interested in supporting spirituality, faith and action in our daily lives as Quakers.



Some of Woodbrooke's tutors

Please attach a  
passport size  
photograph here  
*even if you have  
been here before*



**Woodbrooke**  
Quaker Study Centre

## Equipping for Ministry Application Form

First name:..... Surname:.....

Address:.....telephone: .....

.....fax:.....

.....email:.....

Nationality:.....Gender:.....

Religious affiliation:.....if Quaker, please list your Meeting:.....  
Woodbrooke keeps all details confidentially on computer and in accordance with the  
Data Protection Act.Please tick to give consent.

Date of Birth: day.....month.....year.....

When would you like to start the course? January 2010  January 2011

*Induction weekend 8-10 January 2010 or 7-9 January 2011*

*(We assume you are free to come to the residential weeks, 23-30 July 2010 and 15-22 April 2011)*

Have you been to Woodbrooke before?.....if yes, give details.....

*For your residential visits, please answer the following questions:*

Dietary requirements: Vegetarian  Vegetarian + Fish  Vegan  Halal  Non Dairy

Diabetic  Low Fat  Other (please specify).....

Any allergies? .....

Do you have any health problems, disabilities or special accommodation needs that we should know about?.....

There are a few double rooms. Would you be willing to share?.....

(The basic information on this form will be held on computer)

**It would help us if you would tell us a little about yourself**

for example: your training, work, skills, interests and hobbies as well as some of your important experiences, your links with a Quaker Meeting or other religious group, and why you would like to come on this course. (Please use other sheets if required.)

Do you have a particular aspect of Quakerism you wish to explore through this course, or a set of skills you wish to nurture? (Please use other sheets if required.)

How do you expect to meet the cost?.....

Please give the names, addresses and telephone numbers of two people who know you well and who would be willing to provide references, and include a letter from an Elder in your Meeting or representative of your faith community, acknowledging and supporting your application. (If for any reason this is a problem for you please contact us).

1)..... 2).....

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.....tel:.....tel:.....

Signed:.....date:.....

Where did you hear about Woodbrooke?.....

Please return the completed form to  
**Judith Jenner, Tutor in Quaker Studies,**  
**Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ, UK**

## What have past participants gained from EFM?



"I have gained some knowledge, but more importantly I've gained confidence. Confidence to say 'yes' when asked to serve - but also to know when to say 'no'."

"My ministry is a people ministry - in ordinary life rather than specific tasks. I feel 'more worth' rather than 'more useful' and that feels good."



"I have learnt to trust. I am able to speak with confidence about my belief and my spiritual journey"

"EFM has been a voyage of discovery."



"I learnt to accept myself more and that the spiritual journey is ongoing - with few definitive answers."

"I feel I discovered my ministry."

"EFM has given me confidence gradually to speak about Quakers and to participate more fully and knowledgably in the life of my Area Meeting and Yearly Meeting"

"I feel I am in the process of discovering my ministry. What I have discovered has been nurtured. The course has helped me most in nurturing myself. It has equipped me to nurture myself as my ministry develops."





# Woodbrooke

## Quaker Study Centre

*'Quality service, Quaker values'*

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