

# Woodbrooke on the road 2017

Woodbrooke where you are...

Learn in the areas of:

*Exploring the living Quaker tradition*

*Nurturing our Quaker Community*

*Experience of the Spirit*

*Faith in Action*



#AtOurMeeting

Call 0121 472 5171 or email [enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk)  
for this brochure in formats including large-text

**Woodbrooke**  
Quaker Study Centre



## About **Woodbrooke-on-the-Road**

Woodbrooke-on-the-Road is a travelling teaching service from Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. We offer meetings a well-structured day of learning and sharing, aiming to provide new insights into Quaker history, theology, spirituality, testimony and community.

### Why should our meeting host a **Woodbrooke-on-the-Road?**

- The opportunity to work with experienced and skilled tutors
- Convenient and accessible learning where you are
- An affordable way to access Woodbrooke learning
- A way to open up your meeting to the wider community
- A chance to meet and share with other Friends

## What is on offer in 2017?

Our team of experienced tutors offer a range of specialised and accessible courses covering Quaker history, theology and testimony. We can help you to explore the building blocks of a faithful community; from Quaker roles to nurturing the spiritual life of the meeting.

In this brochure you will find a wide range of courses across four themes:

- **Nurturing Our Quaker Community**
- **Experience of the Spirit**
- **Exploring the living Quaker tradition**
- **Faith in Action**

Choose from one of the listed courses in this brochure or speak to us about how we might use our expertise to offer a bespoke workshop to meet your meeting's specific needs.

## What does it cost?

- Places for a day workshop cost £40 per person, with a minimum charge of £480.
- Maximum charge of £1,000, and no meeting will pay more than that.
- Ask us about subsidies and special funds to help with your finances.
- Is your meeting located outside Britain Yearly Meeting? Ask us about bursary funds.
- New to Woodbrooke-on-the-road? Book the first one for your meeting and get one third off the total fee.

## How to pay?

We do not ask for a deposit or any payment before the event has taken place. When we have agreed the date, topic and tutor we will send you a booking form. After the event, we ask you and the tutor(s) to confirm the actual number of participants and we then issue an invoice.

*“Thank you for a wonderful day of fellowship, with time for reflection, sharing of ideas, and the opportunity to learn from two fascinating and very wise people.”*

Oakhampton Local Meeting

## How big a group will you work with?

Between 12 and 30 is ideal for most topics. We need a minimum of six participants to form a viable group (subject to the minimum charge of £480). Depending on space available, topic and tutors, we can work with larger groups - please ask us.

## How do we book a Woodbrooke-on-the-Road event?

To find out more, please go to [woodbrooke.org.uk/offsite](http://woodbrooke.org.uk/offsite). You can book a course by phoning us on 0121 415 6785 or via email [off-site@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:off-site@woodbrooke.org.uk).

## Woodbrooke learning and accessibility

At Woodbrooke we aim to provide inclusive, participatory learning that recognises and affirms the diverse gifts of all in the community. We all have needs in relation to our learning and our tutors work to ensure all are able to participate. We will try to meet all access and communications requirements, but cannot guarantee provision. We are guided in this by equality legislation and by our Quaker commitment to equality.

Access to the building is the responsibility of the meeting or group booking the event. Woodbrooke is responsible for working with meetings and, in some cases individual participants, to ensure that the necessary provision is in place for you to participate as fully as possible in your chosen course.

***“I found the whole day really helpful and positive. Clearly structured with plenty of opportunities for everyone to contribute. Helped to gain clarity of how we move forward.”***

Northumbria Area Meeting

## Deepening our understanding of Quaker Processes

This day is for meetings who want to deepen their understanding of Quaker Processes and each other. What things need to happen to keep our meeting alive and running smoothly? We can consider topics relevant to your meeting which, in discussion with you, may be drawn from some of the following: working together, leadership, confidentiality, effective clerking, clearness, discernment, nominations, effective communication, knowing your gifts.

Tutor(s): Woodbrooke Tutor Team

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## Discernment: meeting for worship for business

What is going on in a Quaker business meeting? Why do we do what we do? What is the spiritual underpinning? Friends 'on the bench' as well as clerks can benefit from our practical activities, participatory learning and individual reflection.

Tutor(s): Judith Roads or Michael Eccles

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## Exploring Clerking

A day for new or prospective local meeting clerks, although clerks of other groups and meetings will also find it helpful. Practical sessions on agenda planning and drafting minutes are included as well as the principles underpinning why we do what we do in business meetings.

Tutor(s): Clerking Tutor Team

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## Exploring Nominations

An opportunity to explore the nominations process and consider the work of nominations committees. Nominations are at the quiet heart of the way we live together as Friends, when we listen faithfully to the Spirit. This is a day for the whole meeting to explore nominations and how it works. It will offer renewed insight into the potential of nominations to strengthen meetings and enable them to flourish.

Tutor(s): Nominations Tutor Team

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## Exploring *Quaker faith & practice: bringing the book to life*

Woodbrooke & the Book of Discipline Revision Preparation Group working in partnership.

This is an opportunity to explore *Quaker faith & practice* in a stimulating and accessible way. We will look at how and why we use the Book of Discipline as a source of information, guidance and inspiration and explore the nature of this vital text which is created, used, trusted, and revised by the British Quaker community. We will consider questions of authority, tradition, innovation, belief, and where we are as Friends in Britain today.

This workshop is designed to complement the Reading *Quaker faith & practice* programme but is appropriate for any meeting whether or not they have started using this resource.

Tutor(s): Mark Russ and Simon Best

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## Exploring Trusteeship

Training for a group of trustees, or an event to help the whole meeting understand trusteeship. What are trustees responsible for? What authority do they have? What makes for good practice and healthy, trustworthy relationships between meetings and trustees?

[Tutor\(s\): Trusteeship Tutor Team](#)

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## Exploring Eldership & Oversight

Whether members of your group are new to eldership and oversight responsibilities, experienced in the role and keen to explore and discuss the roles or reappointed after a break and wanting a refresher then this training is for your eldership and oversight team. This will be an opportunity to explore and consider the roles and responsibilities of eldership and oversight, ask questions and share insights and challenges together.

[Tutor\(s\): Eldership & Oversight Tutor Team](#)

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## Introduction to Paxton

This workshop is aimed at both Area Meeting treasurers and Local Meeting treasurers. It will provide an opportunity to try out the Paxton charity accounting package. There will be time for demonstrations and hands on practice of the package plus discussions on its benefits and the limitations. It makes a big difference to the work of AM Treasurers when LM Treasurers understand the systems that the AM uses for the financial reporting that is legal required. We therefore strongly encourage LM and AM Treasurers to arrange a day of shared exploration of this new system.

[Tutor\(s\): Treasurers Tutor Team](#)

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## Meeting in Community, Meeting as Community

A day exploring the building blocks of being a faithful community within the Quaker tradition. How can we be a gathered people, and a community of transformation? Using a variety of activities, we will reflect together on the centrality of stories, food and worship to being a vibrant, Spirit-led community.

[Tutor\(s\): Mark Russ and Simon Best](#)

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## What Can We Do With What We've Got?

Do you find it hard to fulfil all your responsibilities as a meeting? Are you looking to reinvigorate your life as a spiritual community? Are you thriving as a meeting but looking to share your Quaker experience or engage in the world? This day is an opportunity for meetings to reflect on their practical and spiritual resources; consider what their ministry might be; think through different possibilities; explore what new expressions of Quaker community might be possible for you as a meeting and discover creative solutions through a supportive facilitative process.

[Tutor\(s\): Simon Best](#)

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## Worship and Spoken Ministry

Quaker worship, based in silence, is not only silent. How do we recognise when the time is right to break the silence with a message? When, and why, might we hold back? How does vocal ministry, given or received, strengthen the meeting? How can the meeting nurture spirit-based ministry?

Tutor(s): [Mary Meeks and Sheila Houldin](#)

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## Coming Together for a Quiet Day

Would you like to 'set aside a time of quiet for openness to the Spirit, to deepen your awareness of the divine and find the inward source of your strength'? (*Advices & queries* 3) Grounded in silence and stillness, this day will involve a gentle rhythm of prompts for reflection, opportunities for spiritual practice and worship, times for sharing and times alone. Come and spend a little time resting in the Light!

Tutor(s): Gill Pennington

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## Deepening the Life of the Spirit

A space for spiritual refreshment and support, this day event offers opportunities to explore and deepen our experience of a variety of spiritual practices, with time alone as well as time for sharing our reflections and experiences with others.

Tutor(s): Gill Pennington

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## Discovering Our Spiritual Gifts

When we come together in community we can be shown our individual and unique gifts and find expression for them. This day will help individuals to share their positive experiences, to identify gifts in others and to celebrate our potential as a group. It will also help to improve confidence in the group and set out simple ways to build community.

Tutor(s): Gifts Tutor Team

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## Exploring Quaker Spirituality

What is Quaker spirituality all about and how does it speak to us today? What does it mean to 'wait in the Light' or 'answer that of God' in everyone? In our day together we will explore central elements of Quaker spirituality, including: silence, worship and vocal ministry; experiencing all of life as sacred; the inward teacher; the contemplative and the prophetic; queries and uncertainty; discipline, discernment and leadings.

Tutor(s): Stuart Masters

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## Song and Silence

In the spirit of worship, we will sing faith-filled songs together, including chants from the Iona and Taizé communities, and the songbooks 'Rise Up Singing' and 'Worship in Song'. Friends are encouraged to bring a willing voice and song to share. This event provides creative and prayerful ways for Friends to incorporate singing into their own worshipping communities.

Tutor(s): Mark Russ

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## Spirituality: our common ground

Many people today are comfortable to describe themselves as 'spiritual but not religious'. But is there a difference? And what do we mean by 'spiritual'? This day is a chance to reflect on our own spiritual experience, learn about the experience of others in our Meeting, and explore what language is meaningful for us to use. Participants will be guided through a gentle process of self-examination and invited to look at what helps and hinders us in living more authentic, joyous, and compassionate lives.

Tutor(s): Alex Wildwood

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## Celebrating the Quaker Way

This day will allow us to look at the rich heritage of Quaker faith and what we can draw from it to sustain and nurture our meetings in the 21st century. What do we need to hold on to and where do we need to innovate? What do we want our meetings to be like and how do we turn our vision into reality?

Tutor(s): Ben Pink Dandelion

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## Early Christianities

The later documents of the New Testament speak of the importance of unity among Christians but even at that time different understandings of the Christian life are evident. These differences become much clearer in the second century where prophetic and gnostic expressions of Christianity flourish. Both are in tension with the strengthening of the bishop as the focus of unity. It is a fascinating and lively picture as groups and individuals all seek to be faithful disciples of Jesus.

Tutor(s): Tim Peat Ashworth

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## Exploring the Early Quaker Vision

In our day together we will explore the founding vision of the Quaker movement and consider how early Friends lived a contemplative, charismatic and prophetic faith that very nearly turned the world upside down. How did this vision shape the Quaker commitment to spiritual equality, peace and building the kingdom of heaven on earth? In what ways does this vision help us to understand Quaker global diversity today?

Tutor(s): Stuart Masters

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## Exploring the Life and Writings of James Naylor

James Nayler was a significant early Quaker leader, seen by many as an equal to George Fox. During our day together we will look at his life and writings, and assess how he shaped the thought and practice of early Friends. Does this help us to make sense of what happened in Bristol in October 1656?

Tutor(s): Stuart Masters

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## Jesus: a Quaker approach

We will look together at aspects of Jesus' life and teaching that resonate for Friends. We will touch too on the challenges that come when we give attention to the continuing impact of his life and death.

Tutor(s): Tim Peat Ashworth

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## Paul: a Quaker approach

Did Paul lead the church away from the simplicity of Jesus? The first Quakers certainly did not think so. Cutting through later church understandings of Paul, we will uncover and learn from his radical and experiential version of Christianity.

Tutor(s): Tim Peat Ashworth

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## Quaker History in a Nutshell

Enjoy hearing about the beginnings of Quakerism and the three centuries of its heritage since. This course will offer an accessible approach to Quaker history with plenty of time for questions and discussion. No previous knowledge is assumed or required.

Tutor(s): Ben Pink Dandelion

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## The Mother of Quakerism: an introduction to Margaret Fell

Margaret Fell is known as the Mother of Quakerism. During our day together we will look at her life and writings and consider her influential role in the early Quaker movement as a practical organiser, political lobbyist and early Quaker theologian.

Tutor(s): Stuart Masters

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## Adventurous Disability Equality

This training supports participants to further disability equality in their personal lives and communities. It links the key ideas of the disability rights movement to core Quaker ideas and spirituality. The disability rights movement is particularly relevant to Quakers, due to our heritage of being moved by faith to take bold action. The history and ideas of the Disabled People's Movement are little-known, and the current political climate makes their justice implications particularly important.

Tutor(s): [Beccy Talmy and Esther Leighton](#)

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## Resilience - how can we respond as communities to the unknown?

We will consider resilience in ourselves and in our communities. How can we build resilience or plan to be resilient? We will reflect on our own experiences and look at scenarios where communities have responded to a situation (e.g. floods and riots). This workshop will take into account current events as well as providing the opportunity to discuss the local context of your meeting(s). Online resources will be made available to help you prepare for the day's activities.

Tutor(s): [Maud Grainger](#)

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*“Great to be reinvigorated and refreshed on clerking and business matters. The facilitator moved the day along at pace, with plenty of opportunity for reflection and questions. They know their stuff!”*

Cornwall Area Meeting

# Our Tutors

**Alex Wildwood** has been facilitating explorations of Quaker spiritual diversity since his 1999 Swarthmore lecture.

**Averil Armstrong** is a retired Chartered Management Accountant, teaching accounting in Business Schools. She is treasurer of Stockfield LM and Woodbrooke.

**Beccy Talmy** is an active member of Jesus Lane Meeting in Cambridge, she has been working on disability rights campaigning and education since 2009.

**Ben Pink Dandelion** has worked for Woodbrooke for over 20 years and has written widely on the Quaker way.

**Esther Leighton** is a member of Hartingdon Grove Meeting in Cambridge and YFGM, I've been a disability rights activist for over 10 years.

**Fenwick Kirton-Darling** is Northumbria AM Treasurer, using Paxton since 2010 and considers that it has brought great benefit to governance.

**Gill Pennington** is Woodbrooke's Spirituality and Roles Tutor. She works to facilitate learning and enable a deepening of spiritual experience.

**Judith Roads** is involved in many areas of Quaker life and enjoys explaining how and why we do things the Quaker way.

**Kate Gulliver** is an area meeting treasurer and was part of the Quaker Stewardship Committee Paxton Charity Accounting pilot group.

**Mark Russ** is Woodbrooke's Nurturing Friends and Meetings Tutor. His interests include apocalyptic spirituality and living in intentional community.

**Martin Layton** is a Senior Programme Leader at Woodbrooke. His interest is in exploring how Quaker spirituality strengthens our lives of active witness.

**Mary Meeks** has a particular interest in Worship, the Spiritual basis of Quakerism, early Friends and the Christian roots of the Society.

**Maud Grainger** is Woodbrooke's Faith in Action Tutor. She is interested in how we live our witness in the world and community activism.

**Michael Eccles** teaches on and co-ordinates Woodbrooke's clerking courses. He also co-ordinates the Young Adult Leadership Programme at Woodbrooke and provides support for QPSW placement programmes.

**Rhiannon Grant** wrote a PhD thesis about Wittgensteinian perspectives on the ways Quakers use religious language.

**Sheila Houldin** completed the Equipping for Ministry course in 2015, has worked as a Woodbrooke Friend in Residence and been a steward at the Quaker Tapestry.

**Simon Best**, Woodbrooke's Head of Learning, is passionate about creating opportunities for Quakers to learn and grow individually and together.

**Stuart Masters** coordinates Woodbrooke's on-site course programme and leads courses exploring the Quaker way and its relationship to other traditions.

**Timothy Peat Ashworth** is Woodbrooke's Biblical Studies tutor. He is co-author of *Rooted in Christianity, Open to New Light*.





# Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre

'Quality service, Quaker values'

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