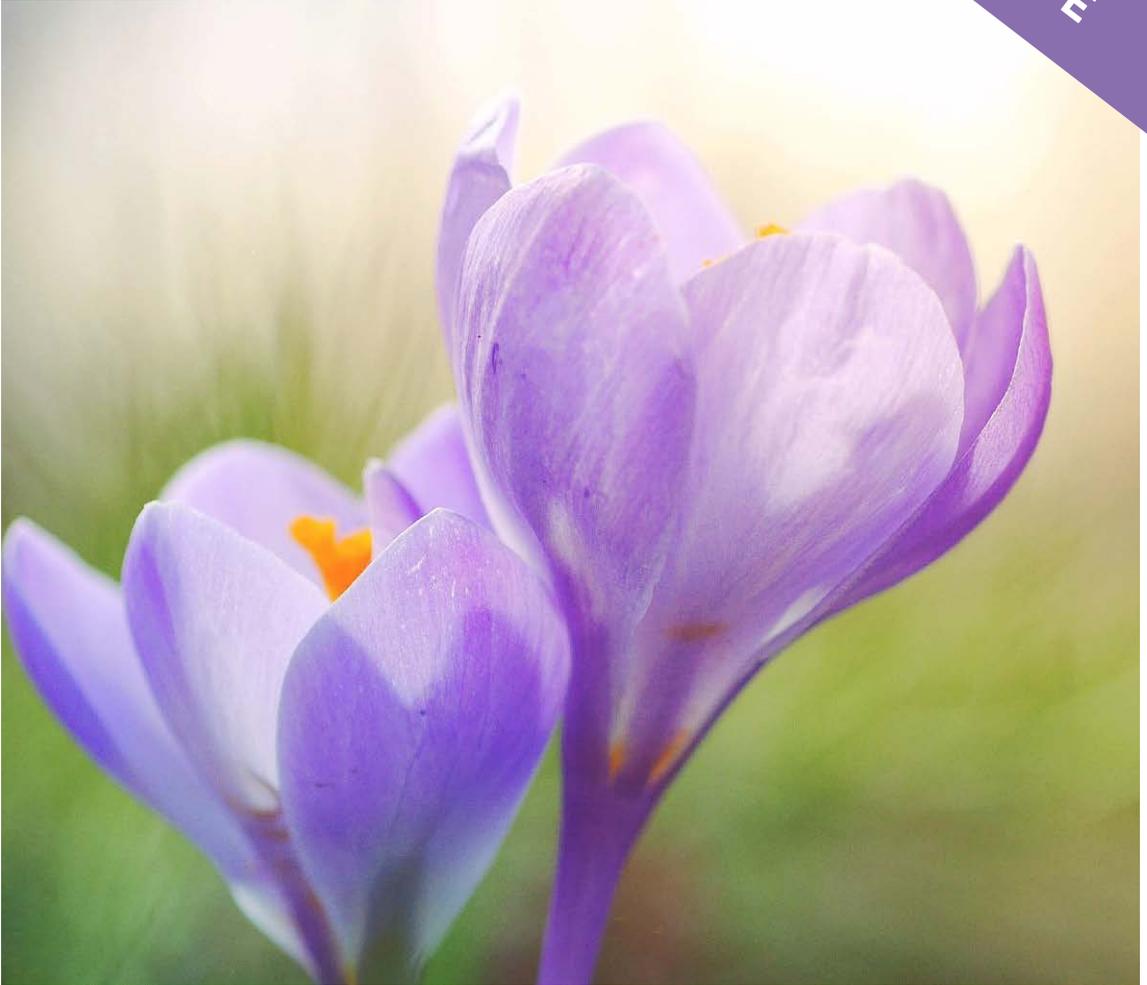




WOODBROOKE

JANUARY  
TO APRIL  
UPDATE

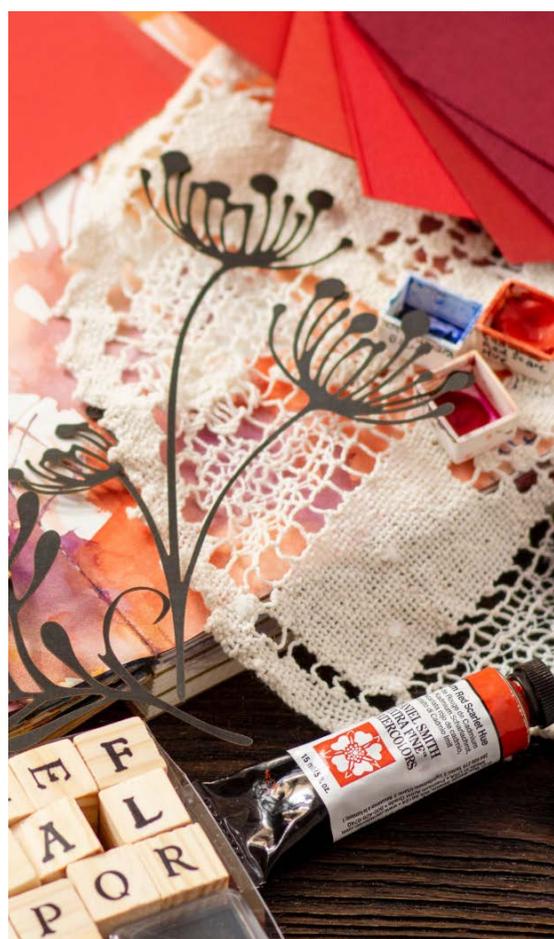


# LEARN

**Woodbrooke Learning**

January to April 2021





# Welcome to Woodbrooke



Welcome to our first brochure of the new year- this is an updated version of our last brochure of 2020 and has a range of new courses and sessions for 2021. This includes all our current offerings up until April as well as some events later in the year.

We hope they will nourish you in the darker months and carry us though to the spring. These include opportunities to explore spiritual practices that can nourish our lives and offer opportunities for contemplation, the chance to explore the radical nature of Quaker theology and how we can nurture our worship and build community as we live through the pandemic and look ahead to what might follow.

A key aspect of Woodbrooke's work is that of our Centre for Research in Quaker Studies and throughout 2021 we are offering a series of sessions on the processes of Quaker research and some recent findings. We hope that these will give insights into what Quaker researchers have discovered.

You can also go to [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/online-courses](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/online-courses) to see an up-to-date list of all the courses that we offer.

I know that Quaker meetings and other groups are giving thought to how they come together for fellowship and learning while we might be apart. **Woodbrooke Where You Are (WWYA)** offers the perfect opportunity for this with lots of online options and flexible approaches. You can find out more about that on pages 40-41 of this brochure or on our website at [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/wwya](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/wwya)

We are already planning our programme for late spring and beyond, giving thought to what Friends will need now and as the year evolves. We will be publicising these in the months to come as we navigate how we can best offer learning and nurture in a challenging world.

I look forward to connecting with you in worship, spirit and community in 2021.

**Simon Best,**  
Head of Learning.

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<b>How Do Quakers Talk About God?</b>   Tue 19 Jan	10	<b>Spirituality and Creative Practice: Wax Wonders</b>   Sat 20 Feb	20
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<b>Deepening our commitment: Loving Earth Project</b>   Fri 22 Jan - Thu 18 Mar	11	<b>Teaching the Tradition: using the Quaker past to nurture our worship</b>   Mon 22 Feb	22
<b>Women in the Early Quaker Movement</b>   Tue 26 Jan	12	<b>Freeing the Imagination: creative and devotional writing</b>   Sun 28 Feb	22
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<b>Answering that of God: Looking with the Eyes of Love</b>   Wed 7 Apr - Tue 4 May	29
<b>Creation, Creature, Creativity in Scripture and Poetry</b>   Sat 10 Apr - Sun 11 Apr	29
<b>'That Your Love May Overflow': Paul's letter to the Philippians</b>   Mon 12 Apr - Sun 9 May	30
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# Online Learning Courses

Woodbrooke's learning programmes seek to support, inform and transform Quakers and others as individuals and communities. Through our learning we hope to nourish spiritual development, strengthen the Quaker community and enable and encourage work for a peaceful and just world.

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)**

*Throughout this brochure we've included links on every course entry so you click through to the booking page to find out more and book!*

TUE 19 JAN

History & Theology, Exploring Quakerism, Supporting Quaker Communities

**HOW DO QUAKERS TALK ABOUT GOD?**

19:00-20:30 • Pay as Led

God, the Light, the Spirit, or whatever you call it – what do Quakers call it, and why? This session will introduce central ideas in liberal Quaker theology by looking at the ways in which British Quakers talk about God. We will explore the idea that it is possible to make lists of synonyms, and why Quakers today might want to do that: the creative tension between desiring to be inclusive and celebrate diversity on the one hand, and the need to maintain a community united by a common practice on the other hand. Attending this session will help you understand some of the theological ideas current in Quaker communities and how these affect relationships within the community and with the Mystery we are trying to name. It is based on Rhiannon Grant’s research which you can read about in more detail in *Telling the Truth about God* (Christian Alternative, 2019).

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

**This course includes:**

- A live discussion session

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK**

WED 20 JAN - WED 24 FEB

Spirituality & Retreats, The Bible

**THE HOLY WELL: CONTEMPLATIVE PRACTICES FOR DAILY LIFE**

£72

For centuries people have sought deeper connection with the Divine through contemplative practices. Practitioners often find themselves at home in practices originating from different faith or wisdom traditions. Friends’ worship itself is often contemplative and may be a fertile source of deeper grounding and centring in the Spirit. Centred in worship, this retreat will offer individual and group exploration of contemplative practices, with opportunities to reflect on and share about the experience. A daily online retreat space will be available between weekly sessions.

Tutors: Lina Jordan and Deborah Shaw

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Video and audio materials
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Individual reflection

**Live sessions** are weekly on 6 consecutive Wednesdays, 18:00-19:30, beginning on 20th January

**Guided practice sessions** are on: Mondays and Tuesdays, 09:00-09:20, beginning on 25th January. Thursdays and Fridays, 15:00-15:20, beginning on 21st January

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK**

FRI 22 JAN - SUN 24 JAN

Supporting Quaker Communities

**BEING A QUAKER CLERK - INTENSIVE**

£65

This online course is for new or prospective clerks with little or no experience of Quaker clerking. It covers the clerk’s role before, during and after a Meeting for Worship for Business. We also consider why we use our particular way of making decisions in our meetings, including how we can do this online. We will focus on clerking local meetings, but clerks of other meetings, including area meetings, will also find they can learn much about their role.

Tutors: Anne Ullathorne and Chris Skidmore

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials

**Live sessions** are on:

Friday 22nd January, 19:30 – 21:00  
Saturday 23rd January, 09:00 – 10:30, 11:30 – 13:00, 16:30 – 18:00  
Sunday 24th January, 14:00 – 15:30, 16:00 – 17:00

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK**

FRI 22 JAN - THU 18 MAR

Climate Crisis

**DEEPENING OUR COMMITMENT: LOVING EARTH PROJECT**

£36

The Loving Earth Project enables you to engage with the Climate Crisis in a way that doesn’t feel overwhelming. Centring on three questions we focus down on what we love, what is at risk due to climate breakdown, and what we can each do about it. The Loving Earth Project is a textile-based project and this workshop will equip you to make your own panel to join our travelling exhibition ahead of, and culminating in, COP 26. Alongside the panel making, we shall be reflecting together, researching where we are guided by the Loving Earth meditation and engaging with spiritual practice to deepen our experience.

*The Loving Earth Project is a partnership project with Quaker Arts Network <http://lovingearth-project.uk>.*

Tutors: Maud Grainger, Linda Murgatroyd and Sue Tyldesley

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

**Live sessions** are fortnightly on Mondays at 19:30-21:00, beginning on 25th January

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK**



TUE 26 JAN

History & Theology

## WOMEN IN THE EARLY QUAKER MOVEMENT

19:00-20:30 • Pay as Led

One of the most striking features of the early Quaker movement was the active contribution of women as writers and preachers within a rigidly patriarchal society. In this live session, we will consider what it was about the Quaker way that made this possible, and how the role of women changed over time

Tutor: Stuart Masters

**This course includes:**

- A live speaker session with discussion

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

THU 28 JAN - THU 11 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities

## THINKING TOGETHER FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FUN

£54

Through this course you will become part of a 'community of enquiry' using the Philosophy for Communities (P4C) method. P4C encourages creative, critical, collaborative and caring thinking to bring people together for lively discussions about ideas, grounded in lived experience, that enable different views to be heard. Through four live sessions, we will think together about faith, the principles of Quakerism, ministry, and community.

Facilitated by two experienced Friends who have used P4C in a variety of contexts with all ages, this course will be fruitful for participants with a variety of Quaker experience - for enquirers, attenders, new or more seasoned Friends. It is suitable for those aged 11+ (those under 18 must be accompanied by a responsible adult).

For more information about P4C go to [www.sapere.org.uk](http://www.sapere.org.uk)

Tutors: Rosie Carnall and Jude Acton

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions

Live sessions will take place fortnightly on Thursdays, beginning on 28th January, 19:00 - 21:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 1 FEB - SUN 7 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities

## MENTAL HEALTH: QUAKER APPROACHES

£86

What is a Quaker approach to mental health? In this course we explore mental health and spirituality. We consider our understandings of mental health issues, and reflect on how Quaker meetings value and support people who are in distress. We will use Quaker and other writings, games and videos, and have discussions using online forums and three live sessions. This course is for everyone, and is of particular interest to those with lived experience of mental health problems, who care for someone who has mental health problems, who have a professional background in mental health, or a spiritual nurture or pastoral care role in their meeting. The course won't be a therapeutic space and we can't offer individual support - please make sure you have sufficient support close to hand.

Woodbrooke and Quaker Life working in Partnership

Tutors: Alison Mitchell, Jane Muers and Bev Smith

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

Live sessions are on Thursdays 4 February, 18 February, 4 March at 19:00-20:30

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



TUE 2 FEB

History & Theology

## EUCCHARISTIC BODIES: QUAKER DISABLED THEOLOGY IN SECULAR TIMES

19:00-20:30 • Pay as Led

This taster session explores the relationship between Quaker Theology, the Eucharist, and Disabled Theology. Learners will be introduced to early Quaker accounts of bodies, 'inward communion' and frailty. The session will show the ways in which Quaker theology has recently lost a rich theological account of bodies. The session attempts to restore this tradition through the work of the Canadian philosopher Charles Taylor.

Tutor: Benjamin Wood

**This course includes:**

- A live speaker session with discussion

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



# WOODBROOKE

## Needs Your Support



**The Covid-19 lockdown has had a serious impact on Woodbrooke's finances.**

We want to sustain our Quaker learning, worship, and connection throughout the next few months and in the years to come.

**Please consider supporting Woodbrooke so we can continue to make a difference in the world.**

Find out more and how you can help at:

[www.woodbrooke.org.uk/donate](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/donate)

Or get in touch: [enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk)

+44 (0)121 472 5171

THU 4 FEB - WED 3 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities,  
Spirituality & Retreats

### CONFIDENT QUAKERISM

£54

The heart of the Quaker experience is encounter – as individuals and as a community. It is the basis of all our processes, our discernment and the authority of the Spirit. During our sessions we seek to deepen and enrich our own understanding of encounter and how it provides the foundation for all our Ministry – of both words and action. We will be offering opportunities to go beyond the surface noise of our lives, drawing on a variety of approaches to help us switch off the unremitting chatter of our minds, in order to go deeper and explore further.

**Tutors:** Gerald Hewitson and Wendy Hampton

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Tuesday at 19:00-21:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SAT 6 FEB - SUN 7 FEB

Spirituality & Retreats

### 'IMMORTAL DIAMOND': THE POETRY OF GERARD MANLEY HOPKINS

£40

Gerard Manley Hopkins (1844 – 89) occupies a unique position in English poetry. His art – combining daring technical innovation and robust colloquial eloquence – has been compared to Shakespeare's. Delight in the divine energy that fires creation confronts an unflinching honesty in the face of spiritual despair, causing his work to speak powerfully and poignantly to us now.

During this course, we shall consider a representative selection of the poems, from *The Wreck of the Deutschland* to the 'terrible sonnets', as well as relevant extracts from Hopkins's remarkable and distinctive sermons and letters.

*'Brennan's teaching shows literature to be an engagement with the most serious questions of moral, emotional and spiritual life. His vast and detailed knowledge of texts allows him to challenge his students, and himself, to find new orientations in life.'*

Dr Tom Jones, Director of Research in English, University of St. Andrews

**Tutor:** Peter Brennan

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials

**Live sessions** are on Saturday and Sunday at 14:00-16:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 8 FEB - SUN 28 MAR

The Bible, History & Theology

## THE WRITINGS OF LUKE: SEEING BEYOND POWER AND PRIVILEGE

£72

‘Do you see?’ Jesus asks this question in Luke’s Gospel as an invitation to look deeply, to see beyond the expected, beyond normal conventions of success and power. The neat contour of Luke’s narrative in both the Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles skilfully hides its disruptive intent, written with the awareness that only a change of heart in each reader, a change of perception, will make sense of what Luke describes. So we will approach these writings, not primarily to learn about the beginnings of the Christian church, but awake to the possibility that, through the Spirit at the centre of Luke’s story, ‘the blind might recover their sight’.

Tutor: Timothy Ashworth

### This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Wednesdays (no session 3 March) at 18:30-20:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 8 FEB - SUN 4 APR

Spirituality & Retreats, Supporting Quaker Communities

## NURTURING OUR SPIRITUAL LIVES THROUGH SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

£115

Friends value the primacy of experience of the Spirit and God’s work in our lives above theology and doctrine which are deemed secondary. What then constitutes individual spiritual nurturing and being nurtured for Friends?

Spiritual direction is an ancient practice of cultivating life as a transformational journey that is lived from inside out at a deeper level. It began in the early Church and was later practised by Desert Mothers and Fathers, and also by early Quakers. Spiritual nurturing can happen on a one to one basis or in a group. This course offers opportunities to those with an awareness of their spiritual longings or struggles to explore ways of being Spiritual Companions by listening to the spirit and each other to answer the question, ‘What makes spiritual direction/nurturing distinctively Quaker?’

Tutors: Nim Njuguna and Katie Evans

### This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum
- One to one tutorials
- Individual reflection

**Live sessions** are on Thursdays at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

TUE 9 FEB

History & Theology, The Bible

## RESISTING THE EVILS OF THE RELIGION OF EMPIRE

19:00-20:30 • Pay as Led

Whose side is God on? What does God say about empire, especially when empire uses God to justify so much of what it does? In our day, “religion” has often been taken as a negative or limiting connotation because of these connections between “God” and empire. Can Friends find new ways of talking about religion, empire, and evil in a world that so desperately needs liberation and justice? Can Friends sort out an anti-imperial religion for the purposes of liberation or must we throw it all out?

In this session, we will look at how to draw on religion, the Bible, and insights from liberation theology to organise for the purposes of liberation of the poor and dispossessed in our communities.

We will unpack some of how religion functions in our world and talk about the evils of empire. We will consider ways of resistance to empire, while practicing a liberating spirituality.

Tutor: C. Wess Daniels

### This course includes:

- A live speaker session
- Live discussion
- Live workshop
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 10 FEB

History & Theology

## RESEARCHING QUAKERS: THE HISTORY OF ‘QUAKER STUDIES’

16:00-17:00 • £15

This is the first of five sessions running throughout 2021 on the processes of academic Quaker research and some of its most recent findings. This first session traces the history of modern academic work on Quakerism starting in the 1870s and coming up to the present day. It considers the changing nature of the work undertaken and the division between work done for other Quakers and that done primarily for the academy.

Tutor: Ben Pink Dandelion

### This course includes:

- A live speaker session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



# POSTGRADUATE STUDY AND RESEARCH

with the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies



Online taught courses leading to a Postgraduate Certificate in Quaker Studies or MA in Quakerism in the Modern World and distance learning with supervision leading to MA by research or PhD.

For more detailed information on these postgraduate options, entry requirements, fees and how to apply for the 2020-21 academic year, please visit [woodbrooke.org.uk/crqs](http://woodbrooke.org.uk/crqs)

The Centre for Research in Quaker Studies works in partnership with the University of Birmingham and Lancaster University.



UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM



## ONLINE LEARNING

MON 15 FEB - TUE 16 MAR

History & Theology, Exploring Quakerism

### EARLY QUAKERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS: THEOLOGY

£54



SAT 13 FEB

Spirituality & Retreats

### A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

10:00-16:00 • £20

A day of reflection and contemplation on what gives us hope and where we can find the Light when times are dark. The day will combine poetry, music and readings from the Bible and Quaker texts with one-to-one tutorials and worship sharing. It will be an opportunity to retreat from the world for a while with the aim of going back into it feeling stronger and more supported.

Tutor: Tracey Martin

#### This course includes:

- A live workshop session
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

In this course, we will engage at a deep level with several short passages written by early Friends that express something essential about their theological vision. This will help us to understand these Friends better and consider what their words mean for us today. Some of the words are very well-known and others less so. The passages will include writings by Elizabeth Bathurst, Sarah Blackborow, Robert Barclay, Mary Coles, Priscilla Cotton, Margaret Fell, James Nayler, William Penn, and Dorothy White.

*This is the second course in a series of three although participation in the previous course is not essential. The final course in the series will focus on witness and testimony.*

*This course involves a time commitment of approximately two to three hours per week. Each week there will be a range of audio-visual and written materials for you to engage with, and a discussion forum where you can share reflections and ask questions.*

Tutor: Stuart Masters

#### This course includes:

- A live speaker session with discussion
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials

**The live session** is on Tuesday 16 March at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

TUE 16 FEB - MON 22 MAR

History & Theology

## EUCCHARISTIC BODIES: QUAKERS AND DISABLED THEOLOGY IN SECULAR TIMES

£54

What has the Quaker tradition to say about bodies, ethics, and disability? In this course, learners will be introduced to Quaker accounts of disability through the themes of Eucharist, woundedness, and interdependence. Sessions will show the ways in which Quaker theology has resources to liberate disabled persons and challenge Ableism, in dialogue with a range of other philosophical and theological traditions.

**Tutor:** Benjamin Wood

### This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Fridays at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SAT 20 FEB

Spirituality & Retreats

## SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVE PRACTICE: WAX WONDERS

15:00-17:00 • £20

This series of sessions will enable people to learn from practising artists about different creative practices and encourage them to try it for themselves using a playful and spiritual approach. They are timed to be accessible to working people, and able to include older children and their parents.

Sue Tyldesley will show you how to work with coloured beeswax to create lovely images. Encaustic art is her passion and a great way to create - using the serendipity of the melted wax. She will share some techniques and some of her work including how to use the element of surprise!

You will be invited to have a go with simple, similar materials. You will use the iron (on a cool setting) to melt some wax for some images, and the hair drier for other images.

**Tutor:** Sue Tyldesley

### This course includes:

- A live workshop session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 22 FEB - SUN 4 APR

Peace & Social Justice

## BUILDING ON THE PEACE THAT IS THERE

£72

We have good intentions when we enter a movement or an organisation that works for something we strongly believe in. Depending on what we do and how we do it, however, our actions can unwittingly encourage division to grow within our communities, feeding existing resentments and tensions and degrading relationships. Or - if we plan and work for it - our actions can build on the positive connections and peace that are already there, nourishing stronger relationships within our communities and countries.

In this course we will explore how to try to ensure that our actions are building on the positive connections and peace that are already present. We will explore tools developed in the fields of international peace-building and humanitarian response, and practice applying them to the UK context. We will learn from case studies from countries in different parts of the world, particularly Myanmar. This course will draw on ideas and tools from non-violent communication and 'Do No Harm'.

**Tutor:** Tanya Hubbard

### This course includes:

- Live workshop sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



MON 22 FEB - SUN 4 APR

Supporting Quaker Communities

## BEING A QUAKER CLERK

£115

This online course is for new or prospective clerks with little or no experience of Quaker clerking. The five modules cover the clerk's role before, during and after a Meeting for Worship for Business. We also consider why we use our particular way of making decisions in our meetings, including meeting online. We will focus on clerking local meetings, but clerks of other meetings, including area meetings, will also find they can learn much about their role.

**Tutors:** Linda Craig and Judith Roads

### This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Thursday 25 Feb, Thursday 18 March, Tuesday 30 March at 17:00-18:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



MON 22 FEB

Exploring Quakerism, Supporting Quaker Communities

**TEACHING THE TRADITION: USING THE QUAKER PAST TO NURTURE OUR WORSHIP**

19:00-20:30 • Pay as Led

As Quakers we often look back to earlier generations for inspiration and guidance, but how can we best use our history to help nurture our worshipping communities today? This session for Elders and others involved in leading learning in Local and Area Meetings will offer reflections and advice on how to engage with the Quaker past to feed the Quaker present. There will be plenty of time for discussion.

Tutor: Ben Pink Dandelion

**This course includes:**

- A live speaker session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SUN 28 FEB

Spirituality & Retreats

**FREEING THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING (FEBRUARY)**

14:00-17:30 • £20

One of a series of four sessions offering a chance to immerse ourselves in the creative process of writing. The focus is on creative and devotional writing so we will be led by the heart rather than head, as we explore how to use the imagination to help people feel and see the world in new ways. We will offer short guided exercises to inspire creative flow, writing time and the opportunity to share together if you choose. We will build on our previous session's work and recommend booking for all four, so that we can create a writing community across the year.

Tutors: Ben Pink Dandelion and Rosie Carnall

**This course includes:**

- A live workshop session
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

FRI 5 MAR - SAT 6 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities

**ALL-AGE COMMUNITY BEYOND LOCKDOWN**

£20

The pandemic has been a time of change, loss, challenge and new opportunities. Quaker communities have lived adventurously and found new ways of doing things. As we look towards a time beyond lockdown, what discoveries do we want to hold on to? What don't we want to forget?

In this short course we will share what we've learned about building all age community online and in other ways. We will draw on the experiences of Friends of all ages in an atmosphere of fun, play and reflective conversation. Through sharing experiences and stories and creative activities, we will gain deep insights into how our Quaker communities can emerge from lockdown strengthened and open to life-giving change.

This course is open to all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Tutors: Helen Chambers and Alistair Fuller

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials

**Live sessions** are on Friday at 19:00 to 21:00 and on Saturday at 10:00 to 12:00 and 16:00 to 18:00

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SAT 6 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

**NOURISHING WELL-BEING: MINDFULNESS PRACTICES FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

10:00-12:00 • £20

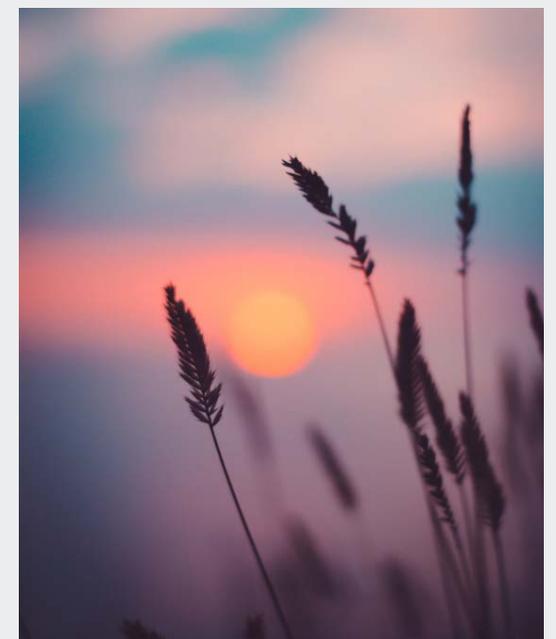
Whether you are new to mindfulness practice or an experienced practitioner, here is an opportunity to look afresh at ways to take good care of ourselves. With practices of mindfulness of the body and of the mind, the morning will offer a Deep Relaxation, followed by a short comfort break, guided sitting meditation and gentle Qigong exercises.

Tutors: Lesley Collington and Theresa Payne

**This course includes:**

- A live workshop session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



MON 8 MAR - SUN 4 APR

Peace & Social Justice

**UNDERSTANDING THE ROOTS OF THE UK'S IMMIGRATION SYSTEM AND HOW TO DISMANTLE IT**

£48

As more people seeking refuge continue to drown in the Mediterranean, the UK government continues to reinforce its hostile environment against undocumented immigrants. Despite many studies confirming that immigration is not damaging the economy or putting a strain on public services, people who migrate continue to be blamed for the UK's ills. How did we get here? What are the values and principles that underpin these ideas and policies and the language of exclusion and what can we do as communities interested in justice to change this landscape? Through interactive sessions, this short course will discuss the narratives and social constructs that have led to the current anti-immigrant sentiment as well as the ways in which people and communities can begin to get organised to build power that achieves racial and migrant justice.

**Tutors:** Tatiana Garavito, Kékéli Kpognon and Catherine Henderson

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Thursdays at 19:00-21:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 8 MAR - SUN 2 MAY

The Bible

**THE GENESIS OF GENDER: GENDER DIVERSITY IN THE HEBREW BIBLE**

£72

This course invites participants to begin to explore the richness of gender that can be found in the Hebrew Bible. Focusing on the book of Genesis, we will establish the current understandings of gender within biblical scholarship, exploring malestream, feminist, and critical masculinity interpretations. We will then consider emerging work that highlights the potential for trans-affirming and intersex readings, looking at the way a diverse genderscape is present in Genesis. Throughout this course, we facilitate accessible biblical interpretation using a range of techniques to aid Bible study beyond the duration of the course. It will also enable participants to develop their understanding of gender in the contemporary world and in the world of this ancient text.

*The course will include live sessions (six sessions over eight weeks) and suggestions of activities to try.*

**Tutors:** Jo Henderson-Merrygold and Rhiannon Grant

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

**Live sessions** are on Mondays (8, 15, 29 March, 5, 19, 26 April) at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 10 MAR - TUE 6 APR

Peace & Social Justice, Supporting Quaker Communities

**A RESTORATIVE SPACE TO CONSIDER WHITENESS**

£45

Consideration of our whiteness can feel like territory that makes us self-conscious, shy, uneasy. Together we will create a compassionate space where we can explore this theme with a sense of non-judgmental enquiry. The theme of whiteness will be approached with care and curiosity with the understanding that acknowledgment can be liberating and healing.

The course will have a contemplative feel. The facilitator will bring an experimental approach to the course, allowing for a sense of unfolding.

**Tutors:** Susan Groves

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

**Live sessions** are on Wednesday at 16:00-17:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



TUE 9 MAR - MON 5 APR

Exploring Quakerism

**ESSENTIALS OF QUAKERISM**

£25

This course, designed particularly for those new to the Quaker way, will introduce the basic and essential elements of Quakerism: the expectation of a transforming encounter with the Divine (however we describe it), the use of a distinctive form of collective worship to nurture that encounter; discernment; and witness - the life that emerges as an outcome of our faith. There will be plenty of time for discussion and questions and a forum for additional conversation between the sessions. Everyone is very welcome, whether or not you have experienced Quaker worship.

**Tutor:** Ben Pink Dandelion

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Tuesday at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



SAT 13 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

### SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVE PRACTICE

10:00-12:00 • £20

Spirituality and Creative Practice sessions will be held once a month on a Saturday and will be an opportunity for individuals and families to learn from a specific Quaker artist who connects their Quaker spirituality with their creative work and to have a go at doing something creative themselves.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 15 MAR - SUN 11 APR

Spirituality & Retreats

### WOMEN IN PRAISE OF THE SACRED

£54

This course will explore spiritual experience through the poems of women across the centuries and from different religions and cultures.

The profound connection between each individual and a reality larger than the personal self is at the heart of every religious tradition. But descriptions of this most intimate of encounters have come to us predominantly through the words of men, but experience of the sacred is available to everyone. We will look at poems, prayers and songs written over forty-three centuries in many different cultures. We will seek to understand them in their context and also see how they speak to us today.

Participants will be expected to read poems before the live sessions. The live sessions will be an opportunity to share responses with each other. Participants are also invited to write their own responses to the poems.

Tutor: Tracey Martin

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Wednesday at 14:00-15:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



MON 15 MAR - SUN 25 APR

Spirituality & Retreats

### EXPLORING JUDGEMENT: HOW TO USE IT WISELY

£72

Judgement is at the source of much division, separation and fragmentation in smaller and larger living units or communities. But it is a psychological and cognitive mechanism which remains essential in our understanding of the world and in the preservation of our wellbeing. How might we turn systematic judgement into a wiser process of openness, acceptance and more benevolent discernment?

Tutor: Caroline Päkel

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Tuesday at 19:00-21:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

THU 18 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

### CLEARING THE WAY

09:30-16:30 • £40

This day course is an opportunity to reflect on who we are, what we feel called to do, and what gets in the way. We will explore the nature of the clutter that distracts us from our life's purpose and consider how to create space in our minds and hearts, as well as in our living rooms.

Tutors: Penny Fosten and Jennifer Kavanagh

**This course includes:**

- A live workshop session
- Written and visual materials
- One to one tutorials
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SAT 27 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

**NOURISHING WELL-BEING: MINDFULNESS PRACTICES FOR EVERYDAY LIFE**

10:00-12:00 • £20

Whether you are new to mindfulness practice or an experienced practitioner, here is an opportunity to look afresh at ways to take good care of ourselves. With practices of mindfulness of the body and of the mind, the morning will offer a Deep Relaxation, followed by a short comfort break, guided sitting meditation and gentle Qigong exercises.

**Tutors:** Lesley Collington and Theresa Payne

**This course includes:**

- A live workshop session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



THU 1 APR - FRI 30 APR

History & Theology

**HANDMAIDENS OF THE LORD: EXPLORING THE WRITINGS OF EARLY QUAKER WOMEN**

£54

One of the most striking features of the early Quaker movement was the active contribution of women as writers and preachers within what was a rigidly patriarchal society. In this course, we will explore the lives, and writings of a number of important early Quaker women. These will include Margaret Fell, Martha Simmonds, Hannah Stranger, Sarah Blackborow, Rebecca Travers, Dorothy White, and Elizabeth Bathurst. What contribution did these women make to the development of the Quaker way?

*This course involves a time commitment of approximately two to three hours per week. Each week there will be a range of audio-visual and written materials for you to engage with, and a discussion forum where you can share reflections and ask questions.*

**Tutor:** Stuart Masters

**This course includes:**

- A live speaker session with discussion
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** is on Thursday 29 April at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SAT 10 APR - SUN 11 APR

Spirituality & Retreats

**CREATION, CREATURE, CREATIVITY IN SCRIPTURE AND POETRY**

£40

‘Creativity’ is a word that is often on our lips – and here is an opportunity to consider precisely how we ourselves understand this spirit of initiative to which everything owes its existence.

The word ‘poetry’ means ‘making’, and this course will explore how poets have enacted and illuminated the nature and principles of creation and creativity across the centuries. Having reflected on scriptural accounts of the creation itself, we shall discuss poems representing the development of insight into creativity – both human and divine – across the last seven centuries. Works by major canonical poets such as Chaucer, Shakespeare, Pope, Blake and Wordsworth will be complemented by more recent poems. Throughout our reflections, we shall be concerned with the characteristics of the poems – what makes them tick – as well as by the ideas emerging from them.

**Tutor:** Peter Brennan

**This course includes:**

- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials

**Live sessions** will be on Saturday and Sunday, 14:00 – 16:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 7 APR - TUE 4 MAY

Spirituality & Retreats, Exploring Quakerism

**ANSWERING THAT OF GOD: LOOKING WITH THE EYES OF LOVE**

£60

What do we mean when, as Quakers, we speak of ‘that of God’? What would be the implications if we held an awareness of the Eternal in everyone all of the time? How can we live out this belief in our relationships and encounters with other people?

This course will provide an opportunity to explore these questions through a combination of facilitator input and time for sharing and listening. It provides an opportunity for us to focus on That which is Eternal; on a higher truth which, when acknowledged, can help us respond in a loving, non-reactionary, way to challenges in our personal lives and in the world. One to one tutorials between sessions will be encouraged.

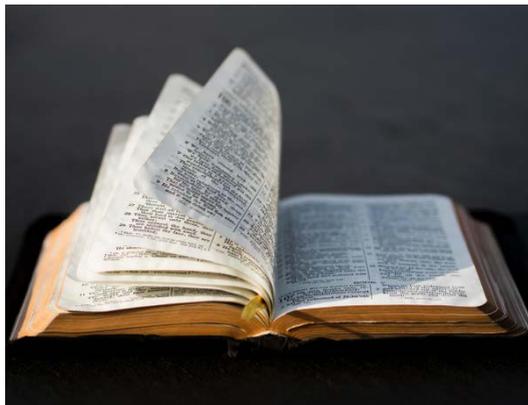
**Tutors:** James McCarthy and Peter Parr

**This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- Individual reflection

**Live sessions** are on Wednesday at 19:30-21:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



MON 12 APR - SUN 9 MAY

The Bible, History & Theology

### 'THAT YOUR LOVE MAY OVERFLOW': PAUL'S LETTER TO THE PHILIPPIANS

£72

This is a letter of encouragement. You know the gift of life you have received, says Paul, now live it to the full. 'Whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, pure, pleasing, commendable, if there is any excellence, anything worthy of praise, think on these things. ... Rejoice!' Challenging theology and practical counsel intermingle in a rich expression of early Christian life. With four live sessions and recommended reading, this course will open up the world of this remarkable short text.

Tutor: Timothy Ashworth

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Thursday at 18:30-20:00.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 14 APR - WED 19 MAY

History & Theology, The Bible

### RESISTING THE EVILS OF THE RELIGION OF EMPIRE: LIBERATING SPIRITUALITY

£72

In our day, "religion" has often been taken as a negative or limiting connotation because of these connections between "God" and empire. Can Quakers find new ways of talking about religion, empire, and evil in a world that so desperately needs liberation and justice? Can we sort out an anti-imperial religion for the purposes of liberation or must we throw it all out?

In six live sessions, we will look at what Empire is, how we can read the Bible in light of empire, and what Jesus and traditions of resistant have to say about responding to Empire. Drawing from liberation theology we will unpack some of how religion functions in our world and consider ways of resistance to empire, while practicing a liberating spirituality.

Tutor: C Wess Daniels

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum
- Social media

**Live sessions** are on Wednesday at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 14 APR

History & Theology

### RESEARCHING QUAKERS: FRIENDS IN WORLD WAR ONE

16:00-17:00 • £15

This is the second of five sessions running throughout 2021 on the processes of academic Quaker research and some of its most recent findings. This standalone session will talk about the various sources used to research and follow up the people (sometimes ancestors) being written about, which range from Quaker and war records to Local Archives in the Family History Library in Leeds, as well as numerous websites. The resulting material showed a wide range of responses to the First World War. Studying war resisters in World War 1, it became clear that as well as Quakers there were other Christian denominations, internationalists, socialists. This session will also describe the development of these links with other researchers, and the varying methods used when exploring how a century old story is reshaped in the present. The story which was finally presented to Leeds City Museum was perhaps not what they expected.

Tutors: Pat Gerwat, Robert Keeble and Susan Robson

**This course includes:**

- A live speaker session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

FRI 16 APR - THU 20 MAY

Supporting Quaker Communities

### BEING A QUAKER COMMUNITY OF WITNESS AND WELCOME

£54

Quakers have a treasure to share with the world – the liberating power of following the promptings of love and truth in our hearts. Rather than treating 'outreach' as an event, this course asks how Quaker communities can witness to the power of the Quaker discovery, and welcome those who seek it, all year round, making witness and welcome a way of life. This course offers thought-provoking discussion and practical suggestions.

Tutors: Mark Russ, Jon Martin and Gill Sewell

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Tuesday at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



SUN 18 APR

Spirituality & Retreats

## **FREED THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING (APRIL)**

14:00-17:30 • £20

One of a series of four sessions offering a chance to immerse ourselves in the creative process of writing. The focus is on creative and devotional writing so we will be led by the heart rather than head, as we explore how to use the imagination to help people feel and see the world in new ways. We will offer short guided exercises to inspire creative flow, writing time and the opportunity to share together if you choose. We will build on our previous session's work and recommend booking for all four, so that we can create a writing community across the year.

**Tutors:** Ben Pink Dandelion and Rosie Carnall

### **This course includes:**

- A live workshop session
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

MON 19 APR - SUN 30 MAY

Peace & Social Justice

## **INTRODUCTION TO RESTORATIVE JUSTICE**

£72

This six-week course is designed as an introductory overview of the Restorative Justice field and its potential for making a transformative contribution at multiple levels: global, national, regional, local and personal. Each session will offer experiential learning alongside theory and resources for 'taking it further'. The learning will be accumulative and the group will develop a life of its own, so those who register are asked to commit for all six sessions.

The tutors are excited about developing this distinctive course which introduces the key Restorative principles in different contexts and creates a group approach to problem-solving through communication, which lies at the heart of restorative practice.

**Tutors:** Deborah Mitchell and Josh Rogers

### **This course includes:**

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Private discussion forum

**Live sessions** are on Thursday at 19:00-20:30.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

# Looking ahead

A selection of courses from our Summer and Autumn schedule that you can book now.

More coming soon!



**MON 26 APR - SUN 16 MAY**

History & Theology, Exploring Quakerism

## **RADICAL SPIRITUALITY: THE EARLY HISTORY OF THE QUAKERS**

Learn about the beginnings of this radical religious group as it emerged in 17th century England, with this free **FutureLearn** online course.

When you think of the Quakers, it might bring to mind porridge oats, or pacifism, or perhaps prison reform. But there is much, much more to the Quakers than any of these things. Through this course, we will be finding out about what lies at the heart of Quaker beginnings, who its main characters were, and how in a few weeks during the summer of 1652 the Quaker movement was formed in the north of England.

By the end of the course, you will be able understand the beginnings of the Quaker movement and explain its key ideas and radical nature; and be able to reflect on the consequences of Quaker spirituality.

**For more information and to register, please go to:**  
<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/quakers>.

## ONLINE LEARNING

**MON 17 MAY - THURS 20 MAY**

History & Theology

### **QUAKER STUDIES CONFERENCE**

19:00-20:30 • £50 (£30 for CRQS students)

The annual conference of the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies (CRQS) and the Quaker Studies Research Association (QSRA). Postgraduate work at Woodbrooke is now twenty two years old this year and this is the 26th annual Quaker Studies Conference. The theme for 2021 is 'Reunion, Renewal and Schism.' Come and join us to listen to the latest in academic scholarship in every area of the field. Visit [www.qsra.org](http://www.qsra.org) to see the full programme. A conference for all those interested in the latest thinking in Quaker studies.

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions

**Live sessions** are daily at 19:00-20:00 beginning on Monday 17 May with the final session on Thursday 20 May.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK**

**TUE 25 MAY - TUE 29 JUN**

Peace & Social Justice, History & Theology

### **JEWES AND QUAKERS CONFERENCE: ON PRIVILEGE AND PREJUDICE**

£110

Religious prejudice and privilege manifest in multiple ways in our society and our lives. Antisemitism is still common, and Quakers are not immune from it. Historically, some Quakers experienced brief periods of persecution, but most now experience the privileges of the majority Christian culture. Both Jewish and Quaker identities are intersectional, only one aspect of a person's complete identity. This conference will include speakers from a wide range of perspectives. Our keynote speakers are Shirli Gilbert, Professor of Modern Jewish History, UCL, London, and Benjamin J. Wood, Honorary Lecturer at the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies, University of Birmingham. There will also be a presentation from Friends with Jewish Connections about the experience of people who are both Quaker and Jewish. In an atmosphere of respectful listening we will explore challenging questions, so that a wide range of views can be heard and discussed.

See <https://jewsandquakers.wordpress.com/> for details.

**Tutors: Rhiannon Grant and Val Whittington**

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials

**Live sessions** are on Tuesday at 19:00-20:00.

**CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK**

WED 2 JUNE

History & Theology

## THE GEORGE RICHARDSON LECTURE: TOLSTOY OR KIERKEGAARD? DILEMMAS OF QUAKER BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION

**HUGH S. PYPER**

19:30-21:30 • Free

The eminent critic George Steiner entitled his first book *Tolstoy or Dostoevsky*. In it he explores the fundamental differences between these two great writers which contribute to their radically different approaches to interpreting the New Testament. In this lecture, Hugh S. Pyper will draw on Steiner's insights while substituting for Dostoevsky, a figure whose writings are often compared to his: the Danish philosopher Kierkegaard. This is because both Kierkegaard and Tolstoy have strong connections to Quakers. By exploring the Quaker interest in the two thinkers, Hugh hopes to uncover some common roots but also to suggest that a necessary tension may have been obscured. Tolstoy seems to have triumphed, but at a cost. The Quaker tradition of biblical reading contains elements that chime with both of these approaches and the lecture concludes by suggesting ways in which the balance could be regained.

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 16 JUN

History & Theology

## RESEARCHING QUAKERS: A FRESH LOOK AT THE HISTORY OF QUAKERS AND BUSINESS

16:00-17:00 • £15

This is the third of five sessions running throughout 2021 on the processes of academic Quaker research and some of its most recent findings. This session will give an overview of the received wisdom about how early Quakers went into business because they could not join the professions, and offers an alternative theory.

Following doctoral research into Quakers and business in the 17th and 18th centuries, it will be argued that previous explanations are flawed, and that historians have in fact been attempting to find an answer to the wrong question. Building on a new analysis of the historiography, from Thomas Clarkson's *Portraiture of Quakerism* (1795) through John Stephenson Rowntree, Karl Marx, and Max Weber, up to the twenty-first century, this seminar suggests that the real issue is not why so many Quakers engaged in commerce, but why so many in commerce became members of the Society of Friends.

Tutor: Andrew Fincham

**This course includes:**

- A live discussion session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

SUN 4 JUL

Spirituality & Retreats

## FREEING THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING

14:00-17:30 • £20

One of a series of four sessions offering a chance to immerse ourselves in the creative process of writing. The focus is on creative and devotional writing so we will be led by the heart rather than head, as we explore how to use the imagination to help people feel and see the world in new ways. We will offer short guided exercises to inspire creative flow, writing time and the opportunity to share together if you choose. We will build on our previous session's work and recommend booking for all four, so that we can create a writing community across the year.

Tutors: Ben Pink Dandelion and Rosie Carnall

**This course includes:**

- A live workshop session
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 18 AUG

History & Theology

## RESEARCHING QUAKERS: ROMANCE AND REALITY - THE LIFE CYCLE OF A PHD

16:00-17:00 • £15

This is the fourth of five sessions running throughout 2021 on the processes of academic Quaker research and some of its most recent findings. This session traces the life cycle of a PhD project from initial idea to successful completion. It looks at the administrative and emotional highs and lows as well as some of the challenges and joys facing those contemplating a Quaker studies PhD.

Tutor: Ben Pink Dandelion

**This course includes:**

- Live speaker session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)





SUN 3 OCT

Spirituality & Retreats

## **FREING THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING**

14:00-17:30 • £20

This is one of a series of four sessions offering a chance to immerse ourselves in the creative process of writing. The focus is on creative and devotional writing so we will be led by the heart rather than head, as we explore how to use the imagination to help people feel and see the world in new ways. We will offer short guided exercises to inspire creative flow, writing time and the opportunity to share together if you choose. We will build on our previous session's work and recommend booking for all four, so that we can create a writing community across the year.

Tutors: Ben Pink Dandelion and Rosie Carnall

### **This course includes:**

- A live workshop session
- Individual reflection

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)

WED 13 OCT

History & Theology

## **RESEARCHING QUAKERS: UNPLAIN QUAKER CRAFT - DEFYING ACCEPTED WISDOM**

16:00-17:00 • £15

This is the last of five sessions running throughout 2021 on the processes of academic Quaker research and some of its most recent findings. This session is based on a PhD currently entitled 'Women Professing Godliness with Good Works: Quaker Women's Decorative Arts Before Ackworth and Westtown, 1650-1779'. The focus is on seventeenth-century English needlework and eighteenth-century Philadelphia wax and shellwork. The former half is dedicated to Quaker samplers made in and around the City of London in the seventeenth century and the latter half explores six wax and shellwork shadow boxes made by female members of Quaker Philadelphia's elite. This session starts to suggest why the art of Quaker women was so decorative and contrasted so greatly with the Quaker tenet of plainness before approximately 1800.

Tutor: Isabella Rosner

### **This course includes:**

- A live workshop session

[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK](#)



# WOODBROOKE

## WHERE YOU ARE



**Bring Woodbrooke learning to where you are with our packages specially designed for your community.**

With a range of topics, prepared and facilitated by our experienced tutor team, you can explore and learn together deepening your understanding and connection.

Woodbrooke Where You Are workshops are all available to be delivered online to your Quaker community with a range of tutor input, live sessions and materials for groups.

You can book a workshop by calling us on 07935 601507 or e-mailing [learning@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:learning@woodbrooke.org.uk)

**Find out more details and a full list of topics on offer on our website [www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/woodbrooke-where-you-are](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/learn/woodbrooke-where-you-are)**

### **DIVERSITY & INCLUSION: BEGINNING THE CONVERSATION**

In 2017, Quakers in Britain began a sustained conversation about diversity and inclusion in our Quaker community. This workshop aims to support meetings who are beginning to have this important and challenging discussion.

### **WORSHIP, MINISTRY AND AFTERWORD**

How do we encourage quality and depth in Quaker worship and spoken ministry? Everyone in a Quaker community, and especially those with eldership responsibility, should consider this issue sometimes.

### **EXPLORING QUAKER SPIRITUALITY**

What is Quaker spirituality all about and how does it speak to us today? What is distinctive about Quaker faith and its practices? In our day together we will explore central elements of Quaker spirituality.

### **ESSENTIALS OF QUAKERISM**

This course, designed particularly for those new to the Quaker way, will introduce the basic and essential elements of Quakerism.

### **HOPE AS A PRACTICE**

Can hope be more powerful than simple optimism? What does it mean to 'practise hope'? How do we maintain hope when things seem to be getting worse rather than better? In this workshop we'll explore different perspectives on hope and think about how they speak to us as Quakers.

### **LOVING EARTH**

The Loving Earth Project aims to help people to engage with issues around climate change without being overwhelmed. It uses a creative approach to learning and reflecting on specific issues and helping us take action to care for what we love and to be good ancestors.

### **THE RICH MAN AND LAZARUS: EXPLORING THE PARABLE TOGETHER**

This session offers the enticing prospect of spending a discomfiting couple of hours as Jesus presses the question of what you do with what you have.

### **QUAKER HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL**

This course gives a concise overview of Quaker history from the 1640s to the present-day, looking at seven distinct theological emphases.



**WOODBROOKE**  
WHERE YOU ARE

# Woodbrooke's Learning and Research Team



**Simon Best** has overall responsibility for Woodbrooke's learning programmes. He is passionate about creating opportunities for Quakers

to learn and grow individually and together. Simon is responsible for supporting the Swarthmore Lecture Programme.

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**Ben Pink Dandelion** has worked at Woodbrooke since 1992. He teaches in the areas of Quaker history and theology as well as contemporary

Quakerism. He has written in particular on the theology of Quaker worship, on how we can celebrate our Quaker faith and why we do things the way we do. Ben has also made a particular study of Quakerism in terms of wider Christian theology of the second coming of Christ. His main academic work is in the sociology of religion. He worships in Clitheroe, part of Pendle Hill Area Meeting.

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**Stuart Masters** offers learning opportunities that explore the roots of the Quaker way, its theology, spirituality and relationship with other traditions.

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**Betty Hagglund** is Librarian and Learning Resources Manager, and has overall responsibility for Woodbrooke's library and archive. She is

particularly interested in early Quaker history and writings.

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**Tracey Martin** facilitates courses on hope, non-violence, peace and responses to the climate crisis. She has a particular interest in poetry and spirituality.

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**Mark Russ** is Programmes Coordinator for Equipping for Ministry. His interests include Christian and Quaker theology and the Bible,

spirituality, intentional community and hope. He blogs at [jollyquaker.com](http://jollyquaker.com). Mark came to Quakers in his late teens, and spent a decade as a music teacher in secondary and primary schools in Birmingham and London. He holds MAs in Music Education from the Institute of Education and in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the University of Nottingham.

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**Maud Grainger** works on supporting Friends in their engagement with the climate crisis; through workshops, retreats and sharing her own

experience. She also supports wider teaching on Quaker understanding of testimony and living our faith in the world.

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**Rhiannon Grant** is a life-long Quaker who researches and writes about religious language and practices. Her recent work includes

'Telling the truth about God' (Christian Alternative, 2019) and 'Quakers Do What! Why?' (Christian Alternative, 2020). She also supports our postgraduate programmes and research work.

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**Timothy Ashworth** draws on biblical study, retreat work and interfaith dialogue to illuminate the nature of spiritual transformation.

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# Woodbrooke's Associate Tutors

Woodbrooke has a large number of associate tutors who deliver many of our courses. You can find details about the tutors for each course in the listings and on our website.

**Alison Mitchell** works for the Retreat Benevolent Fund as Mental Health Development Officer, raising awareness and asking questions about mental health.

**Alistair Fuller** is head of the Ministry and Outreach team at BYM. His work focuses on helping seekers to discover Quakers and on nurturing and supporting Quaker communities.

**Andrew Fincham** is a researcher in the School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion at the University of Birmingham, UK, seeking evidence and explanations for the causal relationship between business success and ethics.

**Anne Ullathorne** has a lot of experience of clerking committees and local and area meetings. She has been clerk of Meeting for Sufferings, the standing representative body of Quakers in Britain.

**Benjamin Wood** is a Supervisor at the University of Birmingham and a Visiting Fellow at the Institute of Religion and Public Life at the University of Leeds. He has previously taught at Leeds Trinity University, the University of Chester, and the University of Manchester.

**Bev Smith** is the Empowering Meetings Mental Health Officer for Quaker Life.

**C. Wess Daniels** is the William R. Rogers Director of Friends Center & Quaker Studies at Guilford College. He lives in Greensboro, North Carolina with his wife, Emily and their three children. Identifying as a “convergent Friend,” Wess is a bridge-builder and boundary-crosser and is interested in teaching liberating faith and practice, and the revitalisation of faith traditions that work toward justice. Prior to teaching at Guilford, Wess was a “released Quaker minister” at Camas Friends Church in Washington.

**Caroline Päkel** sources inner guidance from Quaker discernment and creative thinking processes, Thai Forest Buddhist meditation practice, Franciscan contemplation, and from being in nature.

**Catherine Henderson** became involved with Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network in 2015, at a time when many people were drowning in the Mediterranean trying to reach safety in Europe, and is a member of the Steering Group. In Hertfordshire she helped set up the charity Herts Welcomes Refugees and is currently a Trustee. She is interested in how language and stories shape our perceptions and how the arts can help bring about social change.

**Chris Skidmore** is a former clerk of Yearly Meeting who has been part of the ‘Being a Quaker Clerk’ team since 2017, teaching both at Woodbrooke and on-line.

**Deborah Mitchell** works for a not-for-profit community interest company called RJ Working based in the far South West, in Cornwall. She has a background in the Probation Service and is a registered Social Worker.

**Deborah Shaw** is a life-long Friend and seasoned retreat leader who delights in spiritual exploration in the company of others.

**Gerald Hewitson** has been a Quaker since 1983. A founder member of Holyhead Local Meeting, he belongs to North Wales Area Meeting. He has served at regional and national level, and internationally. Along with his wife, Gwyneth, he was Friend in Residence in Pendle Hill, Pennsylvania in 2011. He gave the Swarthmore Lecture in 2013.

**Gill Sewell** is a freelance spiritual director and mentor, and current co-editor of Friends Quarterly. She has previously worked as Britain Yearly Meeting’s Outreach Officer and has been involved in many Quaker groups such as the Kindlers and Quaker Lesbian Group. She currently worships at Stoke Newington meeting and meditates with a local church group. She is delighted to have been involved in coordinating Quaker outreach at major events including Greenbelt and Hay Festival.

**Helen Chambers** has been an elder with oversight and is a trainer with Quaker Life children and young people’s team.

**Isabella Rosner** is a second year PhD student at King’s College London. She is an expert in women’s needlework from the seventeenth through nineteenth centuries. In addition to her PhD, she runs a podcast about historic needlework and those who made it, called “Sew What?”

**James McCarthy** is a retired social worker. He leads workshops for the Kindlers and has interests in listening, politics and the power of groups.

**Jane Muers** is a long-term Quaker and a retired clinical psychologist, currently involved in mental health concerns and chaplaincy.

**Jennifer Kavanagh** is a speaker on the Spirit-led life, and author of, among other books, *Simplicity Made Easy* and *Journey Home*.

**Jo Henderson-Merrygold** recently submitted a PhD in Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies at the University of Sheffield. Jo explores how Sarai/h and Esau, both found in Genesis, represent characters with a richness of gender that is widely overlooked. When not researching gender and the Bible, Jo is involved in the life of the Methodist Church and works on diversity and inclusion.

**Jon Martin** is Communications Manager at Woodbrooke and was responsible for digital outreach and advertising in his previous role with Quakers in Britain.

**Josh Rogers** works for a not-for-profit community interest company called RJ Working based in the far South West, in Cornwall. He is an experienced environmental activist and youth worker.

**Jude Acton** is a life-long Quaker, experienced P4C facilitator and the Children & Young People's Officer of Quaker Life.

**Judith Roads** is absorbed in exploring and sharing ways of giving service to Quaker meetings through appointed roles.

**Katie Evans** is a Quaker with faith in the transformative potential of listening and being listened to. Katie is a trained spiritual director and volunteer hospice chaplain.

**Kékél Kpognoni** has an academic background in Migration, Mobility and Development and has worked for the past 15 years on social norms, social change and movement building with African-led organisations, NGOs and platforms in Europe and Africa. With the Quaker Council for European Affairs, Kékéli leads projects that seek to promote a human rights-based approach to European policymaking and implementation on the topic of migration.

**Lesley Collington** lives in Dorset, and has practiced in the Plum Village Buddhist tradition for many years. A member of The Order of Interbeing, she became a Dharma Teacher in 2016. She enjoys practicing the contemplative arts of calligraphy, pottery and T'ai Chi.

**Lina Jordan** is a convinced Quaker and Integrative Psychotherapist in private practice. She is interested in the ways in which contemplative practices facilitate exploration and meaning making, and encourage us to initiate changes within ourselves and in our environment.

**Linda Craig** is a recent Clerk to Woodbrooke Trustees, a registering officer and former General Secretary of Quaker Peace and Social Witness (QPSW).

**Linda Murgatroyd** is clerk of the Quaker Arts Network. She is interested in different ways in which we can hold spaces for the Spirit to act, for example through the arts and spiritual accompaniment as well as through more traditional meetings for worship and discernment. She is increasingly trying to build ecological considerations into everyday decisions.

**Nim Njuguna** is a retired Baptist minister and former Quaker prison chaplain/restorative justice trainer. Nim is now involved in researching and writing on diversity and inclusion spirituality informed by intersectionality and unconscious bias perspectives. He offers spiritual accompaniment, (in person or on Zoom) supervision, mediation and facilitates refresher courses for spiritual directors with SPIDIR spiritual direction network. He is a lifetime member of Spiritual Direction Europe.

**Pat Gerwat** came to Quakers in the late 1960s and became a member a decade later. She taught English for five years, then had a family before working part time in further education. She was very active in the peace movement during the late seventies and early eighties, including travelling to the USA as one of 'Mothers for Peace'. Later she embarked on a new career in information technology. She has co-written a book with her husband about his life as a deaf-blind person, and is now active in Leeds Area Meeting.

**Penny Fosten** is a trainer and facilitator, with extensive experience of both environmental action and personal attempts to declutter.

**Peter Brennan** is a poet, and was for many years Head of English at The Latymer School, north London. He now tutors more than a dozen courses annually for City Lit, based in central London, as well as offering freelance tutoring for groups and mentoring for individuals. Peter is above all concerned to explore the spiritual implications of literature and particularly enjoys working with those seeking self development.

**Peter Parr** facilitates workshops with the Kindlers. He is author of the Kindlers booklet Answering that of God and the novel Escape to Redemption. He blogs at [www.thingstoremember.org.uk](http://www.thingstoremember.org.uk).

**Robert Keeble** is a life-long Quaker, originally from Come-to-Good Quaker Meeting in Cornwall, but for the last 30 years, he has been the Warden/Manager of the Quaker Meeting House in central Leeds and until recently, he also worked for the Department of Work and Pensions. Robert has been active as a campaigner, in the Faslane 365 protest, Roots of Resistance and most recently, in seeking climate justice.

**Rosie Carnall** was an Eva Koch scholar, developing a Quaker P4C resource pack. She is an experienced Quaker and facilitator with a vocation for writing.

**Sue Tyldesley**, a Quaker based in North Lancashire, is a textile artist who uses creative embroidery. Sue is a member of the Embroiderers Guild and enjoys sharing her skills including feltmaking, machine embroidery and Quaker Tapestry.

**Susan Groves** grew up in Southern Africa and has a passion and curiosity around the theme of whiteness. She values contemplation, creativity and a playful and experimental approach to living. She enjoys worship-sharing. She has a background in social work, theology and psychotherapy.

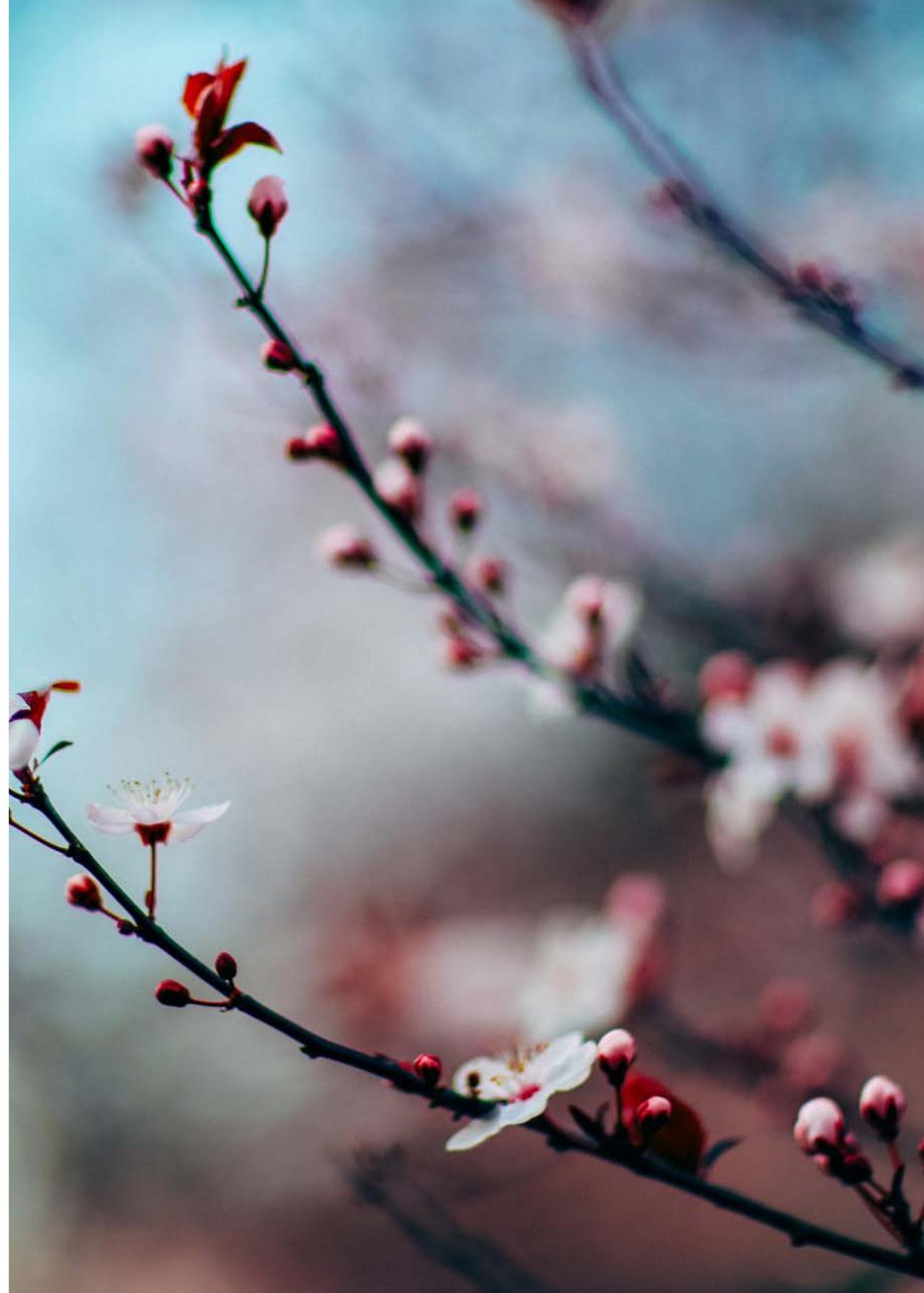
**Susan Robson**, after 30 years working as a social worker, began to study social research, completing a Masters and a Ph.D., both focused on conflict handling. Her 2014 book *Living with Conflict: A Challenge to a Peace Church* led her further into collaboration with historians of war resistance from other Christian denominations and Marxist atheists.

**Tanya Hubbard** is a creative facilitator of conflict transformation and learning. She has worked in China, the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon, Thailand, Uganda, inner city London and, since 2013 until now, in Myanmar. Her passion is in using non-violent communication and creative approaches to enable people to re-connect compassionately with themselves and to re-humanise and re-connect with others who are different in some way or are 'the enemy'.

**Tatiana Garavito** is an organiser and facilitator with over ten years experience of working on issues around race, migration and climate justice. She has led strategy development processes for social justice organisations, facilitated work exploring liberation, and delivered training on movement building across the UK and in Europe. Tatiana currently manages the Sanctuary Everywhere programme at Quakers in Britain. She has worked with HOPE not Hate, Migrants Rights Network and Latin American Women's Rights Service, amongst others. She is also a long-standing grassroots activist, co-founding London Latinx and Wretched of the Earth, groups she is still heavily involved in.

**Theresa Payne** has been practising in the Thich Nhat Hanh tradition for over twenty years. In 2007 she became an Order of Interbeing member and in 2018 became a Lay Dharma Teacher – a role which she is still learning about. Her roots are strongly in the Christian tradition and she sees the two practices as having a joint deep influence in her life.

**Wendy Hampton** has been a Quaker for 25 years, has been involved with Quakers in different Yearly Meetings and has held a range of roles locally, at area and at yearly meeting. Currently she is the Local Development Worker for the north west of England. She is a member of Pendle Hill Area Meeting.





## How to Book

1. Go to **[www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses](http://www.woodbrooke.org.uk/our-courses)** and browse or search our courses. Or click on the **'Click here for more info & to book'** links which appear underneath each course listing in this brochure.
2. Select the course you would like to attend.
3. Click 'Book this course'.
4. Check that the course you have selected is in your basket then click 'Proceed to checkout'.
5. Fill in your details.
6. You can pay in a variety of ways. Select whether to pay online either by credit card or by invoice.
7. Once you have chosen your payment method click the 'Place order' button to confirm your booking.

## What Happens next?

You will receive an email confirming your booking.

Nearer the time of your course, you will receive either a Zoom link or a Moodle login depending on the type of course.

If you do not receive these emails, or have any queries, please contact **[learning@woodbrooke.org.uk](mailto:learning@woodbrooke.org.uk)**.



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