



WOODBROOKE

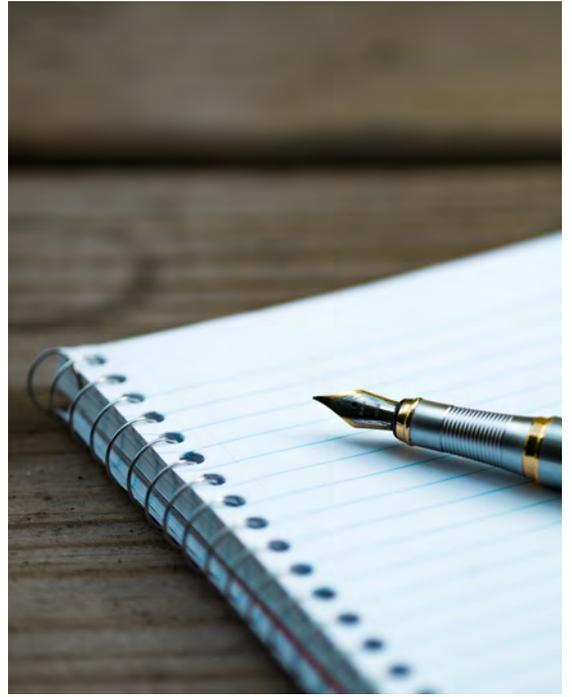
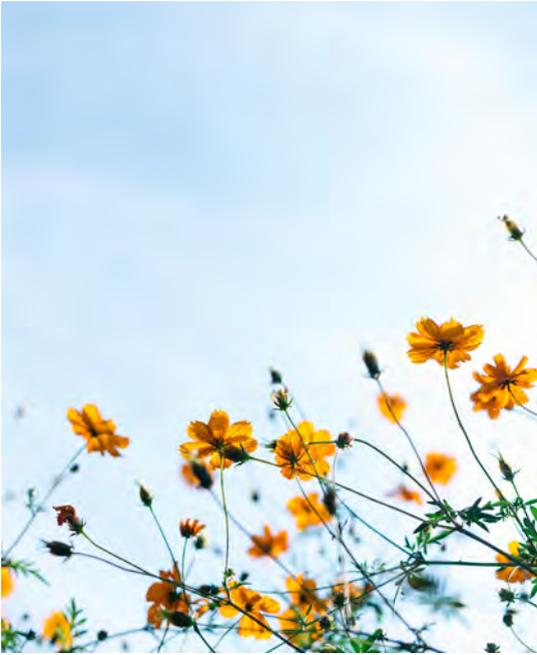
MAY
TO OCTOBER
UPDATE



LEARN

Woodbrooke Learning

May to October 2021



Welcome to Woodbrooke



Welcome to our latest brochure of courses and sessions. This includes all our current offerings up to October. Over this period we will be continuing to focus on online learning and workshops for Quaker communities that deepen our connection to the spirit and to each other.

You might want to dip your toes in with one of our “Exploring Quakerism” courses, designed to give an understanding of the core of the Quaker way, or engage with our courses and retreats focused on the Climate Crisis, including a series of events as part of the Loving Earth Project; or dive deeper with our courses and sessions on Quaker history and theology, such as ‘Heaven on Earth’ (page 28). Whatever you choose I hope that you will find something to inspire, engage and inform your spiritual life. You can also go to www.woodbrooke.org.uk/online-courses to see an up-to-date list of all the courses that we offer.

You might notice that we are not offering a lot of events in late July and early August, that is because we will be part of the online Yearly Meeting Gathering of Quakers in Britain. You can find out more about this event here: www.quaker.org.uk/ym - I hope to see many of you there, even in the virtual space.

Part of Yearly Meeting Gathering and always a highlight of Woodbrooke’s year is the Swarthmore Lecture. This year it will be given by Thomas Penny and will address truth in the era of fake news, asking how Quaker practices and approaches may help us in the face of increasing polarisation. You can find out more on page 33. I am delighted that last year’s lecturer Tom Shakespeare is returning to lead a session on ‘Disability and Social Justice’ (page 37).

As it becomes possible for more of us to gather in person many of you in Quaker meetings and other groups will be thinking about how you can come together for fellowship and learning and to reconnect as a community. Our Woodbrooke Where You Are (WWYA) workshops offer the perfect opportunity for this with lots of options and flexible approaches including online, blended and face-to-face events. You can find out more on pages 54-55 of this brochure or at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/wwya. Those of you thinking about this will also be interested in ‘Becoming Blended Worshipping Communities’ (page 30) which will explore the challenges and opportunities we face as we move forward together.

Simon Best, Head of Learning

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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!

SAT 1 MAY - SAT 22 MAY

Spirituality & Retreats

TO SAVE FROM FEAR: A SPIRITUAL RESILIENCE RETREAT

£72

The culture of fear in which we live, coupled with our own personal anxieties, is an impediment to deepening our spiritual life. Centred in worship, this retreat will offer individual and group reflection and exploration of ways of embracing hope and optimism. Together we will seek to open ourselves to 'that perfect love which casts out fear' and thus more fully realise and experience our growth in and through the Spirit.

Tutors: Deborah Shaw and Mark Russ

This course includes:

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

Live sessions every Saturday at 15:30-17:00 and 18:00-19:30 (UK time)

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

TUE 4 MAY - TUE 25 MAY

Spirituality & Retreats

AWAKENING THE SAGE WITHIN

£72

Today, most people approaching their older years can expect to live another 20 or 30 years. How do you want to live those years? Sage-ing (also known as Conscious Ageing) is a model for engaging those years more deliberately, joyfully, and compassionately. Sage-ing can help us develop a balanced vision for ageing that is personally fulfilling and beneficial to others.

This interactive workshop introduces Sage-ing concepts including life review, forgiveness work and issues surrounding mortality. We explore images of ageing and the role of spiritual development in the capstone chapter of life. Finally, we begin developing a personalised plan for our own ageing, including service to others and leaving a legacy.

This workshop is for people who embrace any faith, humanistic practice, or none, and is based on the best-selling book: 'From Age-ing to Sage-ing: A Profound New Vision of Growing Older' by Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi.

Tutor: Felice Rhiannon

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 09:00-11:30 (UK time)

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

SAT 8 MAY - SAT 29 MAY

Spirituality & Retreats

NOURISHING WELL-BEING: WITH MINDFUL PRACTICES; QIGONG, MEDITATION, RELAXATION

£72

Here is an opportunity to experience the yin and yang of qigong, movement and stillness in body and mind. Qi is often translated as 'the breath of life'. Qigong is gentle and simple, a way to nourish body, mind and spirit. On this course we will practice a sequence of flowing, graceful exercises to replenish our energy and well-being after the long winter when we may have been somewhat sedentary. The yang energy of Springtime is a wonderful time to begin afresh, to turn over a new leaf. We will also practice the art of deep relaxation, mindfulness of breathing, meditation and, overall, take good care of ourselves, establish ourselves in the here and now and feel fully alive.

A moderate degree of flexibility is required to participate in this course.

Tutor: Lesley Collington

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions

Live sessions are every Saturday at 10:00-11:30 (UK time)

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

MON 10 MAY - SUN 6 JUN

Climate Crisis; Spirituality & Retreats

A QUAKER RESPONSE TO CLIMATE COLLAPSE

£36

The climate catastrophe leads different people to different conclusions: one is that there is no real chance of survival of our civilisation. This course will briefly explore the scientific facts behind this conclusion, with a critical assessment of future possibilities. Emotional reactions and their links to the fear of death will be considered, together with ways of expanding peace and social justice as we live through an increasingly bleak future. How can our civilisation die well? We shall think about ways in which the Quaker movement can enable people to cope with profound grief and find ways of living in love. Together, we anticipate that we shall find plenty of hope for a spiritually rich existence as we go through the difficulties that lie ahead

Tutor: Jackie Carpenter

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- Individual reflection
- Social media

Live sessions are every Monday & Friday at 18:30-20:30 (UK time)

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

TUE 11 MAY

Climate Crisis

LOVING EARTH: MAKING POLLUTERS PAY

10:30-16:00 (UK time) • £20

This one-day session is designed to help us better understand the work against climate crisis being done on a national stage and guide us towards what we can do as individuals in support of, and alongside this work.

We will hear about the campaign to instigate The Robin Hood Tax on fossil fuel companies and how the UK government should show leadership on establishing new and additional sources of finance for countries suffering loss and damage caused by climate-related disasters. makepolluterspay.co.uk

We will then use spiritual practices including meditation, worship sharing and individual reflection to work towards a creative response to what we have heard.

Tutor: Rachael Swancott

This course includes:

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

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

THU 13 MAY

Peace & Social Justice

THE CARE CRISIS: A QUAKER VIEW

£15

All of us will at some period in our lives be, or have been, a carer or someone who is cared for. How do we want to be cared for? What should carers be paid? How should unpaid carers be supported? The pandemic has shown us how essential caring for others is to a just society, and how the practice of care has been neglected by governments. The session will explore what care is and how Quakers might contribute to the debate about care in their countries.

This is a taster session for a course on a Quaker approach to care to be offered later in the year.

Tutor: Tracey Martin

This course includes:

- A live discussion session

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

THU 13 MAY

Exploring Quakerism

WHY DO QUAKERS WORSHIP IN SILENCE?

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

Why do Quakers worship in silence? This session will be a chance to explore unprogrammed Quaker worship as it is practiced today in Britain and around the world. We will think about questions like: What is the role of silence? Is silence important itself, or is it a method for approaching spiritual matters? What are people doing during Quaker worship? Why don't Quakers want to plan what they say in worship? How does spoken ministry relate to silence? Does the use of silence tell us anything about Quaker theology or understandings of God?

Whether you have been attending Quaker worship for years or never tried it, this session will provide an opportunity to learn about different approaches to it and experiences of it. There will also be a short period of unprogrammed worship within the session.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- A live discussion session

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

FRI 14 MAY - SUN 11 JUL

Supporting Quaker Communities

QUAKER REGISTERING OFFICER TRAINING: MINISTRY, PREPARATION & PRACTICE.

£115

Woodbrooke and Quakers in Britain working in partnership.

This eight-week course is essential training for Friends serving as Registering Officers. You will be led through the process of preparing a couple for marriage, the theory and practice of Quaker weddings and the legal requirements of registering a marriage. This course will involve live sessions with experienced Registering Officers, discussion forums, and activities to undertake in your own time. By the end of our time together you will have a deeper understanding of the history of Quaker marriage and our current ministry and be confident in preparing for and leading a Quaker wedding.

Tutors: Michael Booth, Seren Wildwood, Judith Baker and Linda Craig

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are every Monday at 17:00-18:30 (UK time)

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

Saturday 31st July 2021

The 2021 Swarthmore Lecture

KINDER GROUND:



CREATING SPACE FOR TRUTH

Thomas Penny

Thomas Penny's lecture will address truth in the era of fake news, drawing on his 29 years' working as a journalist. Revisiting the Quaker commitment to Truth, he will ask how Quaker practices and approaches may help us in the face of increasing polarisation.

Sign up and view the live stream at:

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/swarthmore

Follow up sessions

Exploring The Swarthmore Lecture 2021

Open To New Light? | 13th September 2021, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

What Canst Thou Say? | 20th September 2021, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

Kinder Ground | 27th September 2021, 7:00pm – 8:30pm

SAT 15 MAY

Peace & Social Justice

EDUCATION BEYOND COVID: REALITY, RESILIENCE AND RENEWAL

09:30-12:00 (UK time) • Free

Woodbrooke and Quaker Values in Education working in partnership.

An introductory live session initiated by Woodbrooke working in partnership with the Quaker Values in Education (QVinE) group which will share educational experiences in schools and at home over the past year, and look towards the future.

The event will explore the following themes:

- how the pandemic laid bare the inequalities in our society, which affect young people in the education system at all levels
- how some schools and adults demonstrated resilience in finding creative solutions to problems they and their students and children faced
- aspirations of how we can take the best of what we have learned into a better future for education

We aim to gather a wide range of contributors – parents, teachers, governors, teacher trainers and young people - sharing their views, and offering their lived experience in shaping future directions in education.

Among others, Geoff Barton, General Secretary of the Association of School and College Leaders and Paul Parker, Recording Clerk of Britain Yearly Meeting, will join us.

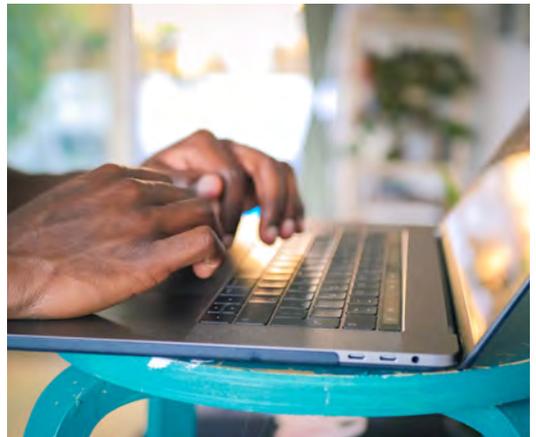
Quaker Values in Education (QVinE) is a small, independent minded body, with a Quaker background, which originated from a concern about the direction that state education, enforced through the inspection system, was being driven.

To date, QVinE has hosted conferences in London and Birmingham, published papers and a recent (2018) book, Faith and Experience in Education. qvine.org.uk

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions

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



SAT 15 MAY

Spirituality & Retreats

SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVE PRACTICE: ZEN DRAWING

14:30-16:30 (UK time) • £20

This session is inspired by Frederick Franck whose spiritual practice is drawing. You need no special equipment, just anything that will make a mark on some paper (pencil, pen, crayon, charcoal, paintbrush, etc.) You will also need something firm to rest your paper on, maybe cardboard, especially if you draw outside.

Drawing is about looking very carefully so that you see and understand the essential nature of what you study. Franck takes this further, suggesting that when we draw we immerse ourselves in that which we draw so that we become part of it and lose ourselves in the process. It is part of seeing with wonder and excitement, seeing with the heart, getting to the truth rather than producing a pretty picture - a form of meditation.

The Spirituality and Creative Practice 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. Timed to be accessible to working people, and able to include older children and their parents.

Tutor: Andrea Freeman

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live workshop sessions

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

MON 17 MAY - THU 20 MAY

History & Theology

QUAKER STUDIES CONFERENCE

£50

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 to see the full programme. A conference for all those interested in the latest thinking in Quaker studies.

Conference sessions are daily at 19:00-20:30 (UK time) beginning on Monday 17 May with the final session on Thursday 20 May.

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions

Live sessions are daily at 19:00-20:30 (UK time)

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

TUE 18 MAY - THU 1 JUL

Supporting Quaker Communities

SPIRITUAL NURTURE AND PASTORAL CARE IN QUAKER MEETINGS

£115

This six-week online course will help all those responsible for eldership, oversight, pastoral care and similar roles to gain understanding and confidence – whatever the system in their meeting. We will explore how we can provide pastoral care and spiritual nurture in Quaker meetings as well as looking at worship, community, caring and leadership.

N.B. We are aware that different meetings around the world use different terms for these roles and that some are changing how they talk about them. This course is designed to cover eldership, oversight, ministry and counsel, pastoral care teams and similar roles.

Tutors: Helen Chambers, Gilly Charters and Martin Pennock

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

Live sessions

are at 19:30-21:00 (UK time) on:

Monday 24 May
Tuesday 1 June
Monday 7 June
Tuesday 15 June
Monday 21 June
Tuesday 29 June

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

THU 20 MAY - WED 11 AUG

The Bible

BOOK GROUP: JOHN BARTON'S 'A HISTORY OF THE BIBLE'

£54

John Barton's wide-ranging book "A History of the Bible: The Book and Its Faiths" was published in 2019. It attracted five-star reviews, commended for its phenomenal learning and quiet wisdom. It was later abbreviated and serialised for Radio 4. Participants are expected to buy a copy and read (or listen to) it! We will work through the book in six sessions. Following opportunities to share thoughts and reactions online, there will be a fortnightly Zoom session.

Author John Barton will be making a guest appearance at the live session on Thursday 8 July.

Tutor: Ann Conway-Jones

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every other Thursday starting on 27 May at 18:30-20:00 (UK time).

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

POSTGRADUATE STUDY AND RESEARCH

with the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies



Study with leading universities from home. Personalised academic support. A welcoming community of researchers.

- **Get a global perspective on Quakerism, with a flexible taught online MA from Lancaster University**
- **Dive deep into something which fascinates you with a University of Birmingham research degree.**

For more information and to apply for the 2021-22 academic year visit woodbrooke.org.uk/crqs



UNIVERSITY OF
BIRMINGHAM



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

FRI 21 MAY - THU 10 JUN

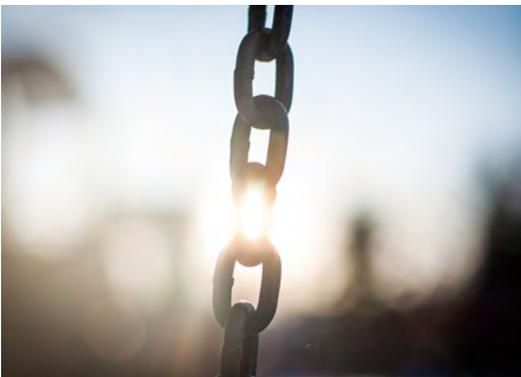
Supporting Quaker Communities

GOING INSIDE: QUAKER PRISON CHAPLAINS' TRAINING

£65

Woodbrooke and Quaker Life working in partnership.

This course is open to all Quaker Prison Chaplains, both recently-nominated and those with experience. It will cover practical issues about working in the prison environment, and how to build trust with staff and inmates within clear boundaries. It will also encourage you to reflect on the Quaker basis of your ministry within a multi-faith team and to deepen your understanding of the role. The course will be led by two experienced serving chaplains and will combine live sessions with individual study and reflection to inform your practice.



Live sessions will not be recorded and you need to join all sessions to get the full benefit from the course. There will be about 2 hours of individual tasks and reflection in preparation before each live session. There will be an optional extra live session in the week commencing 28th June – the exact time and date will be agreed with those who sign up for the course.

Tutors: Judy Roles and Diana Luther Powell

This course includes:

- A live workshop session
- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are on: Tuesday 1 June 19:30-21:30 (UK time), Saturday 5 June 10:00-12:30 (UK time), Thursday 10 June 19:30-21:30 (UK time).

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

SAT 22 MAY - FRI 25 JUN

Peace & Social Justice

ADDRESSING COLONIALISM AND RACISM IN QUAKER PEACE AND SERVICE WORK

£45

Quakers have been known for their work for peace, their relief work after natural disasters and wars, and their commitment to working to end injustice, for a long time. It can be hard for us to acknowledge that the way we have done and are doing peace and service work may be perpetuating the legacy of colonialism and structural racism. We are not uniquely immune from our colonial history or the racism that is embedded in national and global institutions. This course will help us to understand how our Quaker peace and service work is affected and, most importantly, how we can challenge and change this as we continue to work for peace and justice in the world.

Tutors: Tracey Martin and Detmer Kremer

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Wednesdays at 19:00-21:00 (UK time). Please note there is no session on 16 June.

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

THU 27 MAY - WED 23 JUN

Spirituality & Retreats

MEETING NEEDS: A COMPASSIONATE APPROACH TO OUR MENTAL WELLBEING

£54

This is a course about identifying our human needs to better understand our own mental wellbeing and that of those around us, thus creating the possibility of a more compassionate community for everyone.

At times of mental distress and anguish it can be hard to identify and understand our difficult feelings. When we view our setbacks from a perspective of unmet needs, we may begin to find ways to satisfy those needs in healthy, life affirming ways. We find we have innate resources and gifts which help us build our own mental and spiritual resilience, as well as strengthening our relationships.

Meeting Needs is an easy to understand and practical course. Through fun and interactive exercises, participants will develop deeper understanding and compassion for self and others. We will introduce holistic organising ideas which not only help people suffering emotional distress, but also have the potential to create a more just society.

Tutors: Sue Saunders and Carol Harper

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
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Thursday at 14:00-16:00 (UK time).

[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 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 every Tuesday at 19:00-20:00 (UK time).

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

THU 27 MAY

History & Theology

TRINITY: PARADOX AND POSSIBILITY

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £20

What is the Christian idea of the Trinity for? In this taster session we will explore the Trinity, how it is both helpful and difficult, and how it relates to Quakerism. Rhiannon Grant and Mark Russ will share their own thoughts on this complex theological idea. There will be space for your own questions and reflections

Tutors: Rhiannon Grant and Mark Russ

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions

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



FRI 28 MAY - THU 8 JUL

The Bible

EVIL QUEENS AND WICKED STEPMOTHERS: VILLAINESSES IN THE BIBLE

£54

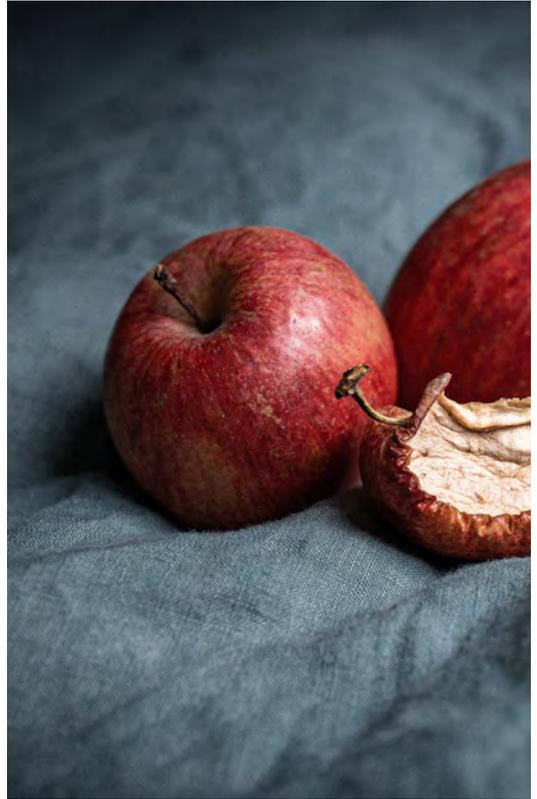
From Delilah and Jezebel to the Whore of Babylon, scripture offers strong archetypes of villainesses. In this six-week course, we will consider the stories of these evil queens and wicked stepmothers in the Bible and how they appear in culture. How can we understand and transcend these narratives? How do they reflect our own experiences? The course will include a combination of lectures and experiential activities, with small and large group discussions. We will use spiritual practices to empathise with these women and understand how they fit into the biblical tradition.

Tutor: Ashley M. Wilcox

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 19:30-21:00 (UK time).



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

FRI 28 MAY - THU 22 JUL

Peace & Social Justice; Supporting Quaker Communities

WHAT'S NEXT? BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST ACTIVIST

£60

In this course about anti-racism, we will use the book “This Book is Anti-Racist” by Tiffany Jewell to ask the question “what next?” when it comes to moving from self-awareness to anti-racism activism.

We will follow the book, using early chapters to centre us in the acknowledgement of our own racism and then move to the chapters on how to proceed with the work. Embedded in the early parts there is an identification of our own identity, including the various communities we belong to (i.e. Quaker, chocolate tasters, theatre lovers, dog owners, etc.), which will be important later because these are where we will be able to do the work of anti-racism.

In the Zoom sessions we will read and reflect on short chapters and discuss the ways in which we have used the information in the book between sessions. Participants are encouraged to do assignments each week that will help set us up to pursue anti-racism work. For example, one week the assignment might be to map your neighborhood to discover places and people and organisations you didn't know about. In the online forum we will continue the discussions and strengthen the links with each other that we hope will continue past the course so we can support each other moving forward.

A copy of “This Book is Anti-Racist” by Tiffany Jewell is required for this course, you can purchase it at the Quaker Bookshop: bookshop.quaker.org.uk/This-Book-Is-Anti-Racist-20-lessons-on_9780711245204 or at other online retailers and book shops.

Tutors: Kate McNally and Rachael Swancott

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 18:30-20:00 (UK time).

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

WED 2 JUN

History & Theology

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

19:30-21:30 (UK time) • 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.

Tutor: Hugh S. Pyper

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

THU 3 JUN

Supporting Quaker Communities

QUAKER YOUTH WORK: REFLECTIONS FROM REGIONAL PILOT PROJECTS

19:00-21:00 (UK time) • Free

Woodbrooke and Quaker Life working in partnership.

The developing local Quaker youth work pilot project ran in the west region and Yorkshire from 2018-2021. It intended to test whether employing a youth worker could make a difference in the ability and capacity of Quaker communities to make links with young people, strengthen the young Quaker community and develop inclusive all age Quaker communities.

Come to session one to hear about the impact and learning of the project.

Come to session two on 24th June to explore how your Area meeting might work with BYM and others to fund and host a youth worker in your region too.

Young people, youth workers and other stakeholders will share their stories and insights and the external evaluation report and case studies will be available.

Tutors: Jude Acton and Helen Chambers

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions

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



THU 3 JUN

The Bible; History & Theology

QUAKERS AND THE BIBLE: SEEING OURSELVES 'AS IN A LOOKING-GLASS'

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £20

This live session will explore how early Quakers understood and used the Bible. We will look at their contemplative and empathetic approach to Scripture, and consider how Bible passages were interpreted as metaphors for the inward life. Does this point us to useful ways of engaging with the Bible as a community today?

Tutor: Stuart Masters

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK

FRI 4 JUN - THU 1 JUL

History & Theology

WHO IS JESUS?

£48

The identity of Jesus has been debated for two thousand years. The New Testament itself offers four different answers to the question 'Who is Jesus?' This course will help you put together your own answer from a Quaker perspective. We'll begin with the historical Jesus, how we know about him, and what the authors of the New Testament say about him. We'll explore the understanding that Jesus is present with us now and speaks to multiple human situations especially to the oppressed (including people of colour, the poor, and women). Finally, we'll look at how British Quakers today talk and don't talk about Jesus as a teacher and as Christ.

Tutors: Rhiannon Grant and Mark Russ

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

Live sessions are every Monday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time).

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK

FRI 4 JUN - THU 15 JUL

History & Theology

DON'T BE SCARED OF THEOLOGY

£54

We all engage in the work of theology: at its most basic, it is just “words about God”. Yet, theology is often (falsely) seen as an intellectual exercise removed from “real life”, or as a complicated discipline too difficult to learn. This course will introduce participants to the basic concepts and methods of theology - both Christian theology generally, and Quaker theology specifically - with the intent of empowering them to use these tools to speak their own “words about God”.

Tutor: Christy Randazzo

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live speaker sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time).

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

SAT 5 JUN

Peace & Social Justice

SOLIDARITY IN THE HOSTILE ENVIRONMENT: WHAT CAN WE DO?

10:00-16:00 (UK time) • £25

This one day event provides an opportunity to learn more about how our asylum system works and how the hostile environment affects those caught up in it. What has happened to justice and compassion and how can we advocate for systems based on these principles? We will explore ways of standing with those seeking sanctuary and supporting one another in our concern. There will be opportunities for discussion in small groups, reflection, hearing from those affected by the hostile environment, and taking part in workshops.

This event is organised in partnership with the Quaker Asylum and Refugee Network which works to change the way that refugees and asylum seekers (whether recognized under the UN Convention on the Status of Refugees or not) are treated and to ensure that justice and compassion are the guiding principles. There will be a range of presenters and facilitators. qarn.org.uk

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are at 10:00-12:00 and 14:00-16:00 (UK time).

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

MON 7 JUN - FRI 16 JUL

Exploring Quakerism

THE QUAKER WAY

£54

Are you relatively new to Quakers and keen to find out more? Have you been a Quaker for some time, but want to refresh your knowledge? This course sets out the Quaker 'basics', and is an ideal next step if you have completed the 'Essentials of Quakerism' course.

It will give you an understanding of the history and international reach of Quakerism, and the importance of spiritual experience to the Quaker Way. We will discuss what happens in a Meeting for Worship and how Quakers make decisions and organise themselves. We will explore what Quakers mean by 'testimony' and explain simple spiritual practices for you to experiment with.

Each week contains video, audio and written materials to engage with, and forums to share reflections and ask questions. There will be a live discussion session each week, for you to talk with the tutors and other participants. This course is intended for people who already have some experience of Quaker community, whether online or in person. This course focuses on Quakerism as practiced by Britain Yearly Meeting, what is known as the liberal unprogrammed tradition. Participants from other Yearly Meetings and traditions are very welcome.

This course involves a time commitment of approximately 2-3 hours per week.

Tutor: Mark Russ

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are every Wednesday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time).

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



MON 7 JUN - MON 19 JUL

History & Theology

HEAVEN ON EARTH: QUAKERS AND THE SECOND COMING

£86

The Quaker movement began with an extraordinary confidence that the kingdom of heaven was arriving on earth. The living word of Christ was sounding among his people and transformation was at hand for those who heard and responded. Ideas that had become part of Christian doctrine, such as the second coming and the expectation that God's righteousness would triumph in the affairs of the world, were perceived as imminent realities. Friends felt they were living in the same Spirit as the early followers of Jesus and this brought vivid meaning to the teaching and stories of the New Testament. But just as change came for the first Christians, so Quakers had to adapt their thinking once the world did not transform in the 1650s. We will explore the new vision that animated both movements as well as how they responded when their expectations were not met. Is there meaning we can draw out of this central part of our faith tradition for the challenges of our lives today? What might heaven on earth mean for us now?

This course will run over six weeks with two live sessions on Zoom - one at the beginning and one at the end.

Tutors: Timothy Ashworth, Ben Pink
Dandelion and Stuart Masters

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are on Monday 7 June and Monday 19 July at 16:00-17:30 (UK time).

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



WED 9 JUN

Supporting Quaker Communities

FRIENDS QUARTERLY CONVERSATIONS: THE FUTURE OF QUAKERISM

19:00-20:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

Woodbrooke and the Friends Quarterly working in partnership.

A chance to dive deeper into Friends Quarterly by hearing from the authors in conversation with the editors.

Issue number two 2021: The future of Quakerism.

In this session, the Friends Quarterly editors Gill and Olivia discuss 'the future of Quakerism' edition with Jon Martin, whose article 'Our limited understanding of community: It's time to remake Quakerism' features in the edition. Gill and Olivia will ask some initial questions and then the conversation will be directed by questions submitted by the audience through Zoom. Attending this session doesn't require a webcam or microphone.

We recommend picking up a copy of this edition of Friends Quarterly before attending if you can: thefriend.org/magazine/tfq

Tutors: Gill Sewell, Olivia Sewell Risley and Jon Martin

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

FRI 11 JUN - SAT 12 JUN

Spirituality & Retreats

IS DANCE WORSHIP?

£30

Is Dance worship? Come and explore this fascinating question in movement, words, art and worship.

Does dance, bypassing words, allow the spirit to flow through us? How might we respond to the world around us in movement? Might worshipful dance allow us to embody our world, to seek truth, connect to one another, and find a deeper understanding of the world? How might we minister, to give witness in the world, through dance? Dance is one of the oldest forms of religious expression; how do other religions use dance; how do other Quakers use dance in their worship?

With live music accompanying, supporting and responding to our explorations, and with creative time to reflect and share using whatever artistic medium of choice you have to hand, this unique course will help start us thinking about, and maybe answering, some of these questions.

Tutors: Ann Bettys and Robin Bowles

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are on Friday, 19:00-20:30 (UK time) and Saturday, 10:00-16:00 (UK time).

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

FRI 11 JUN - SUN 13 JUN

Supporting Quaker Communities

BECOMING BLENDED WORSHIPPING COMMUNITIES: EXPLORING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

£65

Woodbrooke and Pendle Hill working in partnership.

Since the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, Quaker meetings around the world have transitioned to online meeting for worship. Pendle Hill and Woodbrooke have also had to move to a world of online worship and online programming.

Online worship has proven a dynamic place for people to connect with Spirit, an accessible place for Friends to overcome barriers and be together, and a welcoming place for those connecting with Quakers for the first time. It has also presented challenges.

As some meetings prepare to return to some worship in person, questions blaze about how to tend to worship and the life of our meetings as we continue forward in a blended manner.

- How can we maintain an inclusive, safe and gathered worshipping environment?
- How can we gather safely in person; where might we worship?
- How do we include those who wish to continue to worship online, or those who can only join our meetings this way?
- How do we welcome those who might have never joined worship in person?

- What does it mean to be in community in Spirit when some worship in person and some worship online?
- What opportunities for spiritual nurturing are we able to offer in support of the worship experience?

Explore these questions and others together in faithful community with staff members from Pendle Hill and Woodbrooke, and leave more confident to support your meeting moving forward.

Francisco, Lina and Simon will also be joined by guest speakers for some sessions.

This course takes place over three days, with a total of six live sessions each lasting 90 minutes. There will be a mixture of input, individual reflection, small group discussion and plenaries.

We would suggest that American Friends book via the Pendle Hill website (\$90): pendlehill.org/events/becoming-blended-worshipping-communities-exploring-the-opportunities-and-challenges.

Tutors: Simon Best, Francisco Burgos and Lina Blount

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions

Live sessions fall within:

Friday 17:00-20:30 (UK time)
Saturday 14:30-21:30 (UK time)
Sunday 14:30-17:00 (UK time)

[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 (UK time) • £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 speaker session

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

THU 17 JUN

Exploring Quakerism; History & Theology

WHAT DO QUAKERS SAY ABOUT BAPTISM AND COMMUNION?

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £20

The majority of Quakers reject the physical acts of baptism with water and communion with bread and wine. Instead, they might talk about the importance of these spiritual experiences occurring inwardly – or they might not talk about them at all. In this session, we will explore some of the things Quakers have said about these sacraments and how common Quaker understandings are both different from, and connected to, the ideas of other Christian groups. This session is ideal for people who have some experience of other churches and want to find out more about the Quaker way, but no previous knowledge is needed and all technical or theological terms will be explained. Please bring any questions you have about inner experience and ritual, about how Quakers relate to Christianity, and about the spiritual meanings of baptism and communion.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- A live discussion session

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

SAT 19 JUN

Climate Crisis

LOVING EARTH: STOP FUNDING FOSSIL FUELS

10:30-16:00 (UK time) • £20

This one-day session is designed to help us to better understand the work against climate crisis being done on a national stage and guide us towards what we can do as individuals in support of and alongside this work.

We will hear about campaign work towards stopping the funding of climate breakdown by the UK Government. There should be an immediate end to the use of public money to support fossil fuel extraction and power in the UK.

We will then use spiritual practices including meditation, worship sharing and individual reflection to work towards a creative response to what we have heard.

Tutor: Rachael Swancott

This course includes:

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

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

THU 24 JUN - WED 7 JUL

History & Theology

HOW DID JESUS COME TO BE WORSHIPPED?

£36

While there remain important questions about some of the detail of Jesus' life, there are firm grounds for the reality of a man called Jesus who lived and taught around the sea of Galilee before heading for Jerusalem where he was executed in a manner fit for a slave. Only decades later, Roman documents provide evidence for this man being worshipped as a god. How does this come about? Over two sessions we will examine the speed with which this happens, the ideas that make this development possible and the external circumstances that force the early Christians to define what they believe more clearly. You will learn from recent scholarship that has explored this question to better inform your own sense of what it was about the experiences of the early Christians that led them to take this extraordinary step

Tutor: Timothy Ashworth

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

Live sessions are every Sunday at 16:00-17:30 (UK time).

[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

Or get in touch: enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk

+44 (0)121 472 5171

Simpler Meetings Series

How can we release the joy of being a Quaker by making our organisation simpler? How can being a Quaker role holder be less of a burden? What are we learning about simplicity through the pandemic?



Sharing insights from the Simpler Meetings project of Britain Yearly Meeting, this series explores how Quaker meetings and roles can organise themselves. Led by Jonathan Carmichael, the series will help us build visions of alternatives that free us to have more time for being Quakers, instead of running Quakers.

Simpler Meetings: fundamentals | 10 May & 12 May

Simpler ways for Quaker roles | 20 May

Simpler ways for small Quaker meetings | 19 May & 24 May

Simpler ways without a meeting house | 25 May & 10 June

Simpler meetings: imagine ways with Zoom | 18 May & 11 June

Simpler ways for trustees and treasurers | 07 May & 27 May

Simpler by area meetings working together | 11 May & 09 June

Simpler meetings: moving forwards | 06 & 14 May, 14 & 15 June

From £10 per session. Sign up at

www.woodbrooke.org.uk/simpler

THU 24 JUN

The Bible; History & Theology

DID THE FIRST CHRISTIANS HAVE A 'MEETING FOR WORSHIP'?

18:30-20:00 (UK time) • £20

Early in the Acts of the Apostles, Luke writes that the early Christians “devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” While it is likely that Luke knew some of those involved in the earliest days, we do have even earlier accounts of what happened when the first followers met together in the years after the life of Jesus. These too mention the ‘breaking of bread’ but they also include another dimension to early Christian worship, one that allowed space for the expression of Spirit-led words. Is there evidence here for an early form of Meeting for Worship? And what relationship does this have to the ‘breaking of bread’? You will come away with some confidence in a Quaker answer to this question about the worship of the first Christians as well as a clearer idea of the kind of life they were living.

Tutor: Timothy Ashworth

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

THU 24 JUN

Supporting Quaker Communities

QUAKER YOUTH WORK: EXPLORING FUTURE POSSIBILITIES FOR REGIONAL YOUTH WORK

19:00-21:00 (UK time) • Free

Woodbrooke and Quaker Life working in partnership.

The developing local Quaker youth work pilot project ran in the west region and Yorkshire from 2018-2021. It intended to test whether employing a youth worker could make a difference in the ability and capacity of Quaker communities to make links with young people, strengthen the young Quaker community and develop inclusive all age Quaker communities.

Come to session one on 3rd June to hear about the impact and learning of the project.

Come to this session to explore how your Area meeting might work with BYM and others to fund and host a youth worker in your region too.

Young people, youth workers and other stakeholders will share their stories and insights and the external evaluation report and case studies will be available.

Tutors: Jude Acton and Helen Chambers

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions

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



FRI 25 JUN - SUN 27 JUN

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 Judith Roads

This course includes:

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

Live sessions will be at various times from Friday afternoon to Sunday afternoon (UK time)

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

SUN 4 JUL

Spirituality & Retreats

FREEING THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING

14:00-17:30 (UK time) • £20

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 sessions' 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 5 JUL

Peace & Social Justice

DISABILITY AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

Since the 1970s, disabled people have turned approaches to disability upside down, arguing we need to focus on environments and attitudes which disable, rather than the deficits of the person. What does this mean, and how can we work together to build a more inclusive world? If we aspire to “Rights not Charity” and “Nothing About Us, Without Us”, what role is there for non-disabled allies?

Tutor: Tom Shakespeare

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions

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

MON 12 JUL

Supporting Quaker Communities

ROLE HOLDING WITH CONFIDENCE

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

Holding Quaker roles is an important but often challenging aspect of being part of a Quaker community. This session is a chance for us to think about what it is like to have a Quaker role and to discuss this in a group setting. We will explore how those of us appointed can serve our communities with confidence and why that's important. There will be two talks, time for small group discussion as well as a question and answer time. This is for all Friends holding roles and responsibilities in Meetings and will offer a sense of the wider context as well as empowerment for all of us seeking to serve our worshipping communities. We will not be looking at the particular responsibilities of individual roles.

Tutor: Ben Pink Dandelion

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

THU 15 JUL

Exploring Quakerism; History & Theology

HOW DO QUAKERS ORGANISE THEMSELVES?

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £20

Groups of people need to organise themselves. In all kinds of organisations, we are familiar with membership structures: dividing into chapters, parishes, wards, or other geographical subgroups, and similar ways of organising people. But how do Quakers approach this? In this session, we will look briefly at the history of Quaker communities and the ways they have been arranged into meetings – congregations who gather for worship and to make decisions – in various ways. Allowing as far as possible for the variety of arrangements around the world, in this session we'll clear up confusions about local and area meetings, monthly and yearly meetings, meeting for business and meeting for sufferings, members and attenders, and how to join a Quaker community. If you have heard any of these terms and not been sure what it meant, this session is for you.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- A live discussion session

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

SUN 8 AUG - FRI 10 SEP

History & Theology; Peace & Social Justice

EARLY QUAKERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS: WITNESS

£72

In this course, we will engage at a deep level with several short passages written by early Friends that express something essential about their testimony and witness in the world. This will help us to understand these Friends better and consider what their words mean for us today. Some of the texts are very well-known, and others less so. The passages will include writings by Sarah Cheevers, Catherine Evans, Mary Fisher, George Fox, James Nayler, Isaac Penington, and Dorothy White.

This is the third course in a series of three but is open to anyone.

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:

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

Live sessions are on Thursday 26 August and Thursday 9 September at 17:00-18:00 (UK time).

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



TUE 10 AUG

The Bible; History & Theology

FINDING THE SPIRIT IN THE SCRIPTURES

19:00-20:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

How do we relate to the Bible today? Early Quakers were confident that what they read in the Scriptures would match the openings they were given directly from the Inward Light. Today, liberal Quakers are often less sure. Yet this complex collection of texts has had an incomparable influence on Quakers and the wider culture, and is a record of people wrestling with the meaning of God, spirituality and mysticism over a period of a thousand years. In this series of pay-as-led sessions, individuals with a wide range of theological perspectives and spiritual experiences will reflect, in live conversation with a member of Woodbrooke staff, on their relationship to the Scriptures and whether the Spirit can be found there.

Tutors: Abigail Maxwell and Mark Russ (interviewer)

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

SAT 14 AUG - FRI 24 SEP

Supporting Quaker Communities

EXPLORING QUAKER CHAPLAINCY

£115

Woodbrooke and Quaker Life working in partnership.

Are you a Quaker chaplain in a hospital, prison, school or university or in any other work or community setting? Or considering starting chaplaincy? This online course will be an opportunity for sharing, supporting and developing your ministry. We will explore the connections between different settings. Over the six weeks of this course, we will encourage you to take a couple of hours a week to reflect on your work, share your experiences, ideas and insights, and come away refreshed. Allow two to three hours per week.

Tutors: Denise Renshaw, Barbara Davey and Sarah Bower

This course includes:

- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

Live sessions are at 19:30-21:00 (UK time) on: Tuesday 17 August, Tuesday 7 September, Tuesday 21 September

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

MON 16 AUG - THU 19 AUG

Spirituality & Retreats

CARING: A RETREAT

£48

Starting from the story of the Good Samaritan this retreat invites participants to reflect on, and work with, three aspects of caring: caring for oneself, caring about and caring for, as well as the perspective of the one cared for. On the second day we will focus on how we can care for ourselves; on the third we will look truthfully at what we care about and the limits of what we can care about; on the fourth day we will examine the basis of our caring for – is it love or duty? How does the cared for one feel about it?

Everybody cares about something or someone and is at some time a carer or someone who is cared for. This retreat will be particularly helpful for those who are in a caring role, formal or informal, including eldership of Quaker meetings or groups. Participants are asked to put aside at least a couple of hours a day for individual reflection in addition to the live sessions. There will be a period of worship every morning.

Tutor: Andrea Freeman

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are on (all UK time):

Monday 16 August at 09:30-12:30

Tuesday 17 August at 08:30-09:00
(Meeting for worship) and 19:00-20:00

Wednesday 18 August at 08:30-09:00
(Meeting for worship) and 19:00-20:00

Thursday 19 August at 08:30-09:00
(Meeting for worship) and 19:00-20:30

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



MON 16 AUG - SUN 19 SEP

Spirituality & Retreats

EXPLORING THE DIVERSITY OF QUAKER WORSHIP

£40

It's easy to think that all Quakers worship the same way as our own Quaker meeting or church. But, across the world, there is a great diversity of ways of worshipping for Quakers. In this course we will explore the different kinds of worship and why and how they differ. We will share our own understanding and experience of worship. What are the things that make us all Quaker? And how can we learn from each other to worship more deeply?

This course is offered in partnership with Friends World Committee for Consultation.

Tutors: Gretchen Castle and Tracey Martin

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 13:00-15:00 (UK time).

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

MON 16 AUG - SUN 10 OCT

Climate Crisis; Spirituality & Retreats

QUAKERS AND ECO-SPIRITUALITY: GROUNDED PRACTICE TO MEET THE ECOLOGICAL CRISIS

£60

This course will explore and practice spiritual grounding for environmental practice. Drawing together the contemplative and active aspects of Quaker tradition, participants will learn about and engage in ecospiritual practices that connect, sustain for the long term, and root deeply in active justice. Participants will learn about the concept of ecospirituality and enact eco-practices that reflect Friends testimonies, caring for and partnering with that of God in all other entities with whom we share this planet. While being grounded in Quakerism, the course will also invite participants to learn from others outside the Quaker tradition, expanding Quakerism in ways it may be limiting, and welcoming transformation in places where we have bought into white supremacy. Holding together interconnectedness, justice, and care, this course will encourage participation in a community of belonging.

Tutor: Cherice Bock

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Thursday at 16:00-17:00 (UK time).

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

MON 16 AUG

Climate Crisis

LOVING EARTH: BUILD BACK BETTER

10:30-16:00 (UK time) • £20

This one-day session is designed to help us to better understand the work against climate crisis being done on a national stage and guide us towards what we can do as individuals in support of and alongside this work.

Quakers have co-launched the Build Back Better campaign. The campaign calls on the government to decarbonise the economy in a way that tackles inequality and enhances the lives of ordinary people, workers and communities. This must be at the heart of all spending decisions. For example, improving our cycling infrastructure would reduce air pollution and provide a cheaper, healthier and greener way for many people to get to work and school.

We will then use spiritual practices including meditation, worship sharing and individual reflection to work towards a creative response to what we have heard.

Tutor: Rachael Swancott

This course includes:

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

[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 (UK time) • £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:

- A live speaker session

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

FRI 20 AUG - FRI 24 SEP

History & Theology

LISTENING TO THE LIGHT #QLISTENLIGHT

Pay as Led

Liberal Quaker theology is based on the idea – or perhaps it’s a practice, or both – of paying attention to a Divine voice speaking directly to and within human beings.

Variously understood as the Inward Light of Christ, Love, Truth, the Spirit, that of God or good within, and in many other ways, this Inner Guide is the basis of unprogrammed Quaker worship and the Quaker tradition of decision-making through collective discernment. What are the origins and implications of this approach? Join Quakers from around the world to explore these practices and ideas through the participatory, collaborative medium of Twitter. Rhiannon Grant will prompt conversation by sharing material from her academic research and forthcoming book, *Hearing the Light*, through the Woodbrooke account. We will then be able to work as equals to explore the aspects of the topic which interest regular participants and passers-by – whatever we are led to discuss.

This course is free to access on Twitter but we encourage you to sign up here and make a donation if you wish. We will then send you reminders of when the course starts and the hashtag.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- Social media

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

MON 23 AUG - SUN 19 SEP

Spirituality & Retreats; History & Theology

PRAYING WITH OUR MINDS

£48

Prayer should involve our whole selves. In this course we will practice praying with our minds. We will ask questions about the existence and nature of the divine, not in order to find final answers but in order to strengthen our connection with God: the I-Thou relationship with the mysterious beloved. Accepting that there is much we cannot know, we will nevertheless engage in wanton and fabulous speculation to stretch our skills of logic and imagination and bring our thoughts closer to the transcendent. We will play with ideas and experiment with prayer. We may not convince anyone, even ourselves, of the answers we consider, but we will learn from the exploration of possibilities. Suitable for all kinds of believers, nontheists, and others who would like to experiment with using the intellect to connect to ‘that of God within’ or possibly without – whatever that is.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time).

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

TUE 31 AUG - MON 11 OCT

Peace & Social Justice; Climate Crisis

RECONNECTING IN A TIME OF CRISIS: LEARNING FROM CHARLES EISENSTEIN

£54

This course offers a reflective journey using the writings of Charles Eisenstein (author of “The More Beautiful World Our Hearts Know Is Possible” and “Sacred Economics”) as well as Quaker experience past and present.

The course consists of 6 live online sessions, supported by extracts and summaries from Eisenstein’s writings, and video presentations, plus a range of Quaker sources.

At a time when we are aware of many kinds of accumulating crises - in our exploitation of the environment, in our economic framework and in terms of social injustice - how can we find our way to our own particular leadings rather than being overwhelmed by the scale of it all?

Eisenstein’s concept of “separation” is a lens that helps to shape and define the issues we are confronted by in our work, in our communities and in our spiritual lives. We see ourselves as being separate from nature, necessarily using and exploiting it; we think of ourselves as being in competition with others in a world of scarcity. To grasp the way that this perspective is forced upon us by our cultural context is to open up the possibility of an alternative vision.

The course will provide an opportunity for personal reflection and listening, enabling participants to support each other towards their own responses.

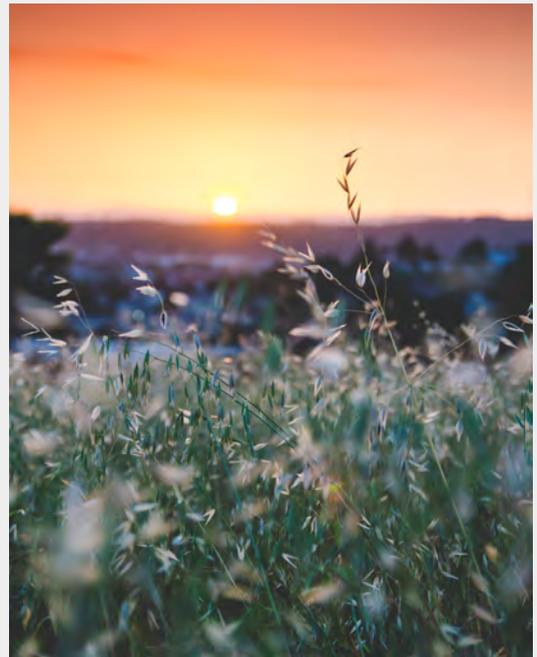
Tutors: George Gawlinski and Lucy Faulkner-Gawlinski

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time).

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



MON 6 SEP - THU 9 SEP

History & Theology

QUAKER STUDIES RESEARCH GATHERING

10:00-20:00 (UK time) • £50

Researchers working on Quaker history, sociology, theology, and other areas will come together for a four-day period of work, sharing, and mutual support. Each day will include a check-in with the group, opportunities for one-to-one meetings with the tutors, opportunities to meet with librarians and archivists working with the Quaker collections at Haverford and Swarthmore, sessions with experts on various aspects of the research process, and time between meetings to get on with your research. Your research may be for a postgraduate qualification, a personal academic project, book, or similar. By the end of the week you will have had a chance to explore any challenges you are facing in your research, learn from and share your experience with other researchers, and should be better equipped for your future work.

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- A private discussion forum
- One to one tutorials

Live sessions are daily between 10:00-20:00 (UK time).

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

MON 6 SEP - SUN 17 OCT

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 Chris Skidmore

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

Live sessions are at 17:00-18:00 (UK time) on Thursdays 9 September, 30 September and 14 October.

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

MON 6 SEP - SUN 17 OCT

Climate Crisis; Spirituality & Retreats

VOICES OF THE EARTH

£86

Creative partners Zélie and Philip Gross, the award-winning poet, lead this popular annual course for people with any level of experience in writing or visual media, or none. Building on the experience of taking Voices of the Earth online last year, the course brings a hands-on approach to writing poetry and/or making art underpinned by a sense of our place among life on Earth. Differently engaging individual and collaborative activities are backed up by abundant resources in each medium, with teaching support and guidance offered to open up unfamiliar possibilities and develop existing skills. Art activities can be done in any medium; you will also need some means of taking photographs that can be uploaded on the course site.

Through our experiments with many ways of making creative sense of change, this year's theme, "A Time for Emerging", looks to move from an emergency to new emergence, for individuals, communities and the world. The clearly designed course pages guide you through a variety of approaches and practical techniques for you to work with as you choose. Forums provide spaces for conversations, sharing work in progress and creative experiment. A weekly Zoom session is planned to be held on Mondays from 10:00-11:30 (UK time), with the option of an early evening slot if needed. These will be recorded so that anyone unable to attend can stay connected. There will also be

flexible opportunities each week for group workshops or one-to-one consultations. We anticipate that each participant will attend one 90 minute Zoom session each week, plus one 90-minute workshop, however some people may do much less than this, others a lot more, depending on their circumstances and preferences. Zélie and Philip are on hand throughout to help you open up the creative possibilities within the course and in the world around us.

If you have questions about this out-of-the-ordinary course, please contact Woodbrooke and the tutors will be pleased to respond.

Tutors: Zélie Gross and Philip Gross

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Live workshop sessions
- Recorded video and audio materials
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum
- One to one tutorials
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are every Monday at 10:00-11:30 (UK time) but others will be arranged in consultation with participants once the course begins.

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

SAT 11 SEP - SUN 12 SEP

Spirituality & Retreats

POETRY AND THE SOUL'S JOURNEY

£40

This innovative course invites you to explore the depth and variety of modern spiritual poetry in English, including works by T.S. Eliot, Denise Levertov, R.S. Thomas and Geoffrey Hill.

In an age in which conventional religion (in the West, at least) is often assumed to be under threat, it is fascinating to observe just how many major modern poets have engaged in profound contemplation of the world's divinity and the possibilities of faith. We shall consider a wide range of responses to eternal questions, from rapture to unease. In so doing, we will inevitably reflect on the implications of these texts for our own understanding of spirituality today.

The style and context of each poem will be illuminated as the course unfolds. No prior knowledge or outlook will be assumed, but you will need to feel enthusiastic about, and engaged by, the prospect of reading and discussing such poetry. You will be interested in listening to – and learning from – the observations of other students.

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 (UK time).

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

SAT 11 SEP

Supporting Quaker Communities; Spirituality & Retreats

A DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION RETREAT

09:30-20:00 (UK time) • £30

Woodbrooke and Quakers in Britain working in partnership.

This retreat builds on the Diversity and Inclusion Gatherings held at Woodbrooke in 2019 and 2020. Collecting reflections and learning from these events, along with Yearly Meeting Gathering 2021, we will consider where we are currently and where we might want to be. It is a chance to contemplate the past year and what this has meant for Quakers as a faith group and Britain as a nation in relation to equality and justice. This retreat includes a contribution from a guest speaker, details of which will be announced nearer the time. We will provide a nourishing interval in which spiritual growth and care are promoted. Participants will be invited to think about and take seriously their need for support and inspiration on this journey.

Tutors: Mark Russ and Edwina Peart

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions
- Individual reflection

Live sessions are on Saturday at 09:30-20:00 (UK time)

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

MON 13 SEP

Peace & Social Justice

EXPLORING THE SWARTHMORE LECTURE 2021: OPEN TO NEW LIGHT?

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

One of three sessions exploring the key themes of the 2021 Swarthmore Lecture, “Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth” by Thomas Penny

Open to new light?

In an era of “fake news” and wilful misdirection, it’s hard to know who to trust. Faced with an overwhelming barrage of information, how do we find our way to the truth? Are we open to listening and learning from different people and hearing a range of voices, or do we stick to those we know? It’s not the first time Quakers have encountered campaigns of misinformation; can we learn from our past experience? How can we change the way we consume media to ensure we are open to new light?

Tutors: Thomas Penny and Ben Pink
Dandelion

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

WED 15 SEP

Peace & Social Justice

QUAKERS EXPLORING PENAL ABOLITION

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

Suppose British Quakers took the same long-term view of imprisonment as they do of warfare, that it could and should be dispensed with? How might that alter our traditional penal witness? Contemporary imprisonment is as much about managing poverty and the consequences of social inequality as it is about protecting society from harmful behaviour – at which, like rehabilitation, prison has never been systematically effective. Notwithstanding the dangerous few needing confinement, what might the prevention of harm and violence entail? Is restorative justice sufficient? Should we oppose the very principle of punishment? Starting from the work of Quaker abolitionists Fay Honey Knopp and Ruth Morris, this event will explore new ways of thinking about penal questions, consistent with our testimonies to truth, peace and equality.

Tutor: Mike Nellis

This course includes:

- Live speaker sessions
- Live discussion sessions

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



SAT 18 SEP

Climate Crisis

LOVING EARTH: PANEL MAKERS GATHERING

10:30-16:00 (UK time) • £20

This one-day session is for anyone who has attended a Loving Earth Project course before and will serve as a community building day. We will share our panel making progress, share tips and ideas and reflect on the work we have each undertaken in combatting the climate crisis.

Tutor: Rachael Swancott

This course includes:

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

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

MON 20 SEP

Peace & Social Justice

EXPLORING THE SWARTHMORE LECTURE 2021: WHAT CANST THOU SAY?

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

One of three sessions exploring the key themes of the 2021 Swarthmore Lecture, "Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth" by Thomas Penny

What Canst Thou Say?

"Let your communication be Yea, yea; Nay, nay: for whatsoever is more than these cometh of evil" (Matthew 5:37). As we seek to witness to our Testimony to Truth how does our choice of language stand in the way? How can we communicate more honestly and clearly? Do we want to? How can we utilise Quaker plain speaking to champion truth?

Tutors: Thomas Penny and Ben Pink
Dandelion

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

MON 27 SEP - SUN 24 OCT

Peace & Social Justice

RADICAL LISTENING: PUTTING LISTENING AT THE HEART OF WITNESS

£48

There are so many burning issues we need to address and the pressure to act immediately can be overwhelming. What would happen if we took the time to really listen to those who are most affected by injustice and poverty, to those we disagree with, to each other, to ourselves? This course will look at what happens when we really listen and how it will change what we do and how we do it, enabling us to work for change with respect and in solidarity. We will learn from the example of others and actively practise different ways of listening that can help us go deeper and further.

Participants will hear from inspiring people and learn experientially through structured activities.

Tutors: Tracey Martin and Kate McNally

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are every Thursday at 18:30-20:30 (UK time).

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

MON 27 SEP

Peace & Social Justice

EXPLORING THE SWARTHMORE LECTURE 2021: KINDER GROUND

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • £15

One of three sessions exploring the key themes of the 2021 Swarthmore Lecture, “Kinder Ground: Creating Space for Truth” by Thomas Penny

Kinder Ground

In the polarised cacophony of political and cultural debate people are encouraged to take sides and dig in, placing partisanship above the pursuit of truth. How can Quakers help to create an environment where the quest for truth is able to take centre stage, allowing space for doubt, exploration and the opportunity for us to change our minds?

Tutors: Thomas Penny and Ben Pink Dandelion

This course includes:

- A live speaker session

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

TUE 28 SEP - MON 1 NOV

History & Theology; Exploring Quakerism

QUANGLICANS, QUGANS AND MORE: QUAKERS WITH MULTIPLE RELIGIOUS IDENTITIES

£54

Many people participate in more than one religious tradition – perhaps moving between traditions over the course of their life or engaging in more than one practice or community at once. This possibility is explicitly accepted in Britain Yearly Meeting's book of discipline, where dual membership with other churches is described positively, and some individual Quakers also belong to churches, synagogues, meditation groups, Druid groves, and many other religious traditions. In this course we will explore what multiple religious belonging is, different ways it can be understood, and how it might affect Quaker and other communities. We will be accepting of the possibility and the many positive experiences people have but also able to discuss the drawbacks and challenges involved. By the end of the course, you should have a clearer understanding of multiple religious belonging in its many forms, whether or not it is part of your own religious life.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

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

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time).

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



SUN 3 OCT

Spirituality & Retreats

FREEING THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING (OCTOBER)

14:00-17:30 (UK time) • £20

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 4 OCT - SUN 14 NOV

Supporting Quaker Communities; History & Theology

QUAKER DECISION-MAKING TOOLS: THRESHING AND CLEARNESS

£68

When difficult decisions need to be made, we sometimes need to stop and explore multiple perspectives, gather information, and acknowledge personal and emotional connections as well as community and spiritual aspects to the discernment process. In this course, we will explore Quaker approaches to these situations. Threshing meetings aim to help communities sort the wheat from the chaff, the significant from the incidental, and our research has shown that carefully constructed threshing can help with decision-making in a range of situations. Clearness meetings are a related method usually used for individuals or couples to explore questions such as whether to undertake new work or get married, and can be a valuable part of a personal discernment process. Whether or not you have previous experience with these approaches, and whether you want to use them with Quaker or other communities, this course will help you understand and apply them.

Tutors: Rhiannon Grant and Rachel Muers

This course includes:

- Live discussion sessions
- Written and visual materials
- A private discussion forum

Live sessions are every Wednesday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time)

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

WED 13 OCT

History & Theology

RESEARCHING QUAKERS: UNPLAIN QUAKER CRAFT - DEFYING ACCEPTED WISDOM

16:00-17:00 (UK time) • £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 speaker 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 in a range of formats including online, blended and in-person 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

Find out more details and a full list of topics on offer on our website 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.



Ben Pink Dandelion teaches in the areas of Quaker history and theology and contemporary Quakerism. He has written on the

theology of Quaker worship, on how we can celebrate our Quaker faith and why we do things the way we do. His main academic work is in the sociology of religion.



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



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.



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



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.



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.



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.



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



Rachael Swancott is working on The Climate Crisis: Spiritual Nurture and Learning Project for Woodbrooke until October 2021. Coordinating courses, workshops and other resources in specific relation to Quaker responses to the climate crisis. She also works on Quaker responses to, and understanding of, Anti-Racism in the UK today.



Alison Richards works to develop Woodbrooke's learning programme in response to the needs of Quakers and Quaker communities. She is committed to educational quality assurance, ensuring that learning programmes will be well developed, resourced, managed and evaluated.

Woodbrooke's Associate Tutors

Andrea Freeman Andrea Freeman's art practice grew out of illness, and wanting to find herself again. She has used many different media, from printing to film, painting to making things. She is now a performance artist with Pink and grAy. One of her loves is drawing, mark making - that can be a doodle or something specific. Focusing upon anything brings it alive, shows its intricacies, its structure, and texture. Or it can be out of the imagination. It can be very meditative and a reminder of our connection to the ineffable. She works as a professional artist developing and running visual art workshops for a charity offering creative activities for wellbeing.

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. His doctoral thesis addressed the 'Causes of Quaker Commercial Success 1689-c.1750', which applied Social Network Theory to account for the importance of Quaker Discipline.

Ann Bettys is an experienced teacher and facilitator who has had a lifelong passion for dance. She has danced many forms of movement from contemporary to jazz, salsa, clog and even Morris dance. Her interests currently lie with finding ways to allow the expression of feelings about the world through dance and movement. Music and rhythm are an important part of the dance

experience. Ann has been collaborating with Robin Bowles on dance and music for many years.

Ann Conway-Jones is an Honorary Research Fellow at Birmingham University, who combines her biblical scholarship with enthusiasm for teaching adults.

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.

Ashley M. Wilcox is the author of *The Women's Lectionary* (forthcoming from Westminster John Knox Press). Her writing has been published in *Friends Journal*, *Western Friend*, Quaker anthologies, and on www.ashleymwilcox.com.

Barbara Davey is an Honorary Chaplain at the University of St Andrews, where she is part of a team that embraces a rich variety of faiths and philosophies of life. Barbara has found that seeking to offer a Quakerly presence in the life of the university, wherever the opportunity might arise, has been a rewarding role over the past few years, often in unexpected and creative ways. She looks forward to exploring the many aspects of chaplaincy service with interested Friends.

Carol Harper is a psychological therapist, supervisor and trainer. She serves as a voluntary Quaker prison chaplain.

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.

Cherice Bock is a Quaker in Oregon (USA) who teaches in the creation care programme at Portland Seminary of George Fox University. She also leads Oregon Interfaith Power & Light. She co-edited “Quakers, Creation Care, and Sustainability” (2019, with Stephen Potthoff), spoke at New England Yearly Meeting on the theme “A Quaker Ecology: Meditations on the Future of Friends” (2020), and offered the message at Friends Committee on National Legislation’s annual meeting, “Friends, Racial Justice, and Policing: A Biblical Economy of Care.”

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.

Christy Randazzo is a writer, teacher, and minister, bridging the contemplative nature of theological writing with the active, lived theology of congregational life.

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

Denise Renshaw is a retired physiotherapist who, in 2006, began volunteering with a small charity that ran the visitors’ centre at a women’s prison. In 2009, she began her journey as a Quaker Prison Chaplain. She is very grateful for the divine nudges that led her to prison chaplaincy.

Detmer Kremer is a policy and communications officer at Protection Approaches, a UK-based charity working on the prevention of identity-based violence and mass atrocities around the world. Detmer has worked in the Human Impacts of Climate Change Programme at the Quaker United Nations Office and was a Quaker Voluntary Service Fellow in Atlanta, the United States

Diana Luther Powell is a Friend and Quaker Prison Chaplain. She is a member of the Quaker Prison Chaplaincy Committee. She is a dance teacher by training and has worked in many areas of education.

Edwina Peart is the Inclusion and Diversity Coordinator for Britain Yearly Meeting.

Felice Rhiannon, upon her “re-irement” trained as a Certified Sageing Leader, facilitating workshops in conscious ageing and spiritual eldering. She also serves her community as a OneSpirit interfaith minister, spiritual counsellor, and celebrant for all of life’s transitions. Felice has worked as an acupuncturist, a yoga therapist and yoga teacher, specialising in teaching people over 50 and those living with cancer. Her blog posts can be found at her website www.elderspirit.co.uk and at www.sage-ing.org.

Francisco Burgos is Pendle Hill’s executive director and has facilitated spiritual retreats and lectio divina sessions for different audiences. He was a De La Salle Christian Brother for almost ten years, serving in

Dominican Republic, Guatemala, and Costa Rica, and has been a Friend since 2004. Francisco is a member of Harrisburg Friends Meeting and currently attends Providence Friends Meeting in Media, Pennsylvania. He has attended several monthly meetings, including Monteverde Friends Meeting in Costa Rica and Adelphi Friends Meeting in Maryland

George Gawlinski is a convinced Quaker of 40 years. Active in local, national and international Quaker witness. His professional life has been concerned with supporting individuals and organisations to turn their leadings into effective action.

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.

Gilly Charters came back to Quakers in the 1980s. She has served with Eldership and Oversight teams and enjoys inreach and outreach.

Gretchen Castle serves as the General Secretary of Friends World Committee for Consultation, the Quaker World Office, located in London at Friends House. She travels among Quakers, building connections around the world, serves on the Quaker United Nations Office boards in New York and Geneva, and chairs the Christian World Communions Meeting of General Secretaries.

With a Master's degree in Organization Development, Gretchen's primary work has been in organizational change, board development, and strategic thinking, largely within Quaker organizations. Grounded in faith, her work for and with Quakers is a life-long commitment to bringing love into fuller illumination.

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

Hugh S. Pyper has recently retired as Professor of Biblical Interpretation at the University of Sheffield and now lives in Orkney. Born and brought up in Edinburgh, his early career was as a school biology teacher and it was not until his 30s that he embarked on the academic study of the Bible, subsequently teaching at the University of Leeds before moving to Sheffield. He has been appointed as the next president of the Society for Old Testament Study in the UK and Ireland.

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?"

Jackie Carpenter is a Quaker, a chartered engineer, a sustainability and renewable energy consultant, a granny, and a winner of cups for vegetables in the local show. She loves wildlife and the sea. She has founded two cohousing communities in Cornwall, and her on-line course in September 2020 "Cohousing in Country Buildings" was very well-received. Jackie wrote a book in 2016, "Hope on the Slope", and is currently the

editor of the Cornish Friend newsletter for Quakers, as well as being clerk of the Sustainability for Quakers in Cornwall Group.

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

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

Judith Baker is an experienced Registering Officer.

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

Judy Roles works as a Quaker prison chaplain and as a volunteer Restorative Justice facilitator. She has recently served as clerk to the QPC committee. When training as a Spiritual Director she found her way to the Enneagram and to a project developing this programme in prison work.

Kate McNally is a member of Belgium and Luxembourg Yearly Meeting. A psychologist by training, Kate lives in Brussels where she works on issues of migration and anti-racism. Kate blogs at bravespaces.blog

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 Blount is an organizer, trainer, and nonviolent action strategist who has been working on environmental justice campaigns

in the Philadelphia area for over ten years. Lina currently works as the Education Coordinator for Pendle Hill and just rotated off as co-clerk of the Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) board, which she has served since 2013. Lina has also worked with the Divestment Student Network and spent two years as a canvass director and anti-fracking organizer in Pennsylvania.

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

Lucy Faulkner-Gawlinski has been a member of King's Lynn Quaker Meeting for over 25 years. She has co-led courses at Woodbrooke including one on Eisenstein's book, "Sacred Economics". She is currently serving on QPSW's Economics and Sustainability sub-committee.

Martin Pennock is a linguist who, as an experienced clerk and elder at local, area and national levels, has always sought to leaven his respect for Quaker discipline with humour.

Michael Booth is Britain Yearly Meeting's Church Government Advisor, which includes supporting Registering Officers and advising on Quaker marriages.

Mike Nellis, a former social worker with young offenders, is Emeritus Professor of Criminal and Community Justice in the Law School, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, and a long-term attendee at Glasgow LM. He undertook a 12-month Joseph Rowntree Travelling Fellowship on "revitalizing penal reform in the Society of Friends" and served on BYMs Crime and Community Justice Committee. He has written widely on penal

reform, and on the ethics and politics of alternatives to custody, notably the probation service and electronic monitoring.

Olivia Sewell Risley Olivia Sewell Risley is one of the editors of the Friends Quarterly. With a background in studying literature and education, she is passionate about listening to and learning from different voices and perspectives. She is a lifelong Quaker, and enjoys regularly volunteering at Quaker youth events. As well as editing, she works for the NHS in the West Midlands, where she lives.

Oonagh Ryder is the Activism Support Coordinator on the Economics & Sustainability Team at Quaker Peace & Social Witness, supporting Quakers to take action for economic and climate justice in a variety of ways. She has been active in social justice movements for the past twelve years and alongside her work on climate justice is currently involved in organising around prison abolition and prisoner solidarity as part of the Prisoner Solidarity Network.

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.

Philip Gross is committed to the principles of collaboration and disciplined playfulness in freeing the life of our words. He has worked with visual artists, dancers and musicians as well as fellow poets, and his own prize-winning poetry has been praised

for its powers of close observation and his thoughtful, questioning, exploratory approach to the writing itself.

Rachel Muers is a lifelong Quaker and teaches theology at the University of Leeds. She is the author of "Testimony: Quakerism and Theological Ethics" (SCM Press).

Robin Bowles has played music all his life in a wide variety of settings and has a particular passion for playing music for improvised dance. Robin spent many years as a community musician and workshop facilitator specialising in working with dance and movement. He currently teaches piano and plays a variety of tuned and percussive instruments. He has played in a wide variety of bands much of his life embracing many genres of music from classical, rock, pop and soul through to jazz, Celtic and eastern European folk and free improvisation.

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.

Sarah Bower has been involved in social work as a Mental Health Practitioner since 1981. After qualifying as a social worker in 1984, she became a Special Needs Adviser and director of Religious Education in a local Church of England primary school. She qualified as a Teacher of the Deaf in 2004 and gained a doctorate in researching the inclusion of children with Special Educational Needs in mainstream education. Sarah started attending Quaker meeting in 2016, and became a member in 2019. She has been a voluntary chaplain at Guys and Saint Thomas Teaching Hospital in Westminster since 2018. Sarah says that the reason she volunteers is

that the unexpected encounters with patients sustain her on a weekly basis.

Seren Wildwood works for Gloucestershire Registration Service.

Sue Saunders is a psychological therapist, supervisor and trainer. She is a member of Monkstown Meeting, where she has served as overseer, elder and clerk, and as a member of the Dublin and Ireland Peace Committees.

Thomas Penny, the 2021 Swarthmore Lecturer, has worked as a journalist for 29 years, most recently as UK political correspondent for Bloomberg News, covering four prime ministers, three referendums, two recessions and one pandemic.

He is a member of South East London Area Meeting and a part of the clerking team for Blackheath Meeting. He has served on Quaker Communications Committee and the Parliamentary Liaison Committee and spent 10 years as a volunteer youth worker on national events for young Friends. When not working he can be found digging his allotment or playing guitar and singing.”

Tom Shakespeare is Professor of Disability Research at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and was the 2020 Swarthmore Lecturer. He has worshipped at Newcastle, Geneva, Norwich, Wymondham, and Westminster Quaker Meetings. He is a social scientist and bioethicist who has worked particularly on disability and on genetics. His books include “Disability Rights and Wrongs”, “Genetic Politics”, and “Disability – the Basics”. He has been involved in the disability rights movement for more than 30 years and has been involved in the arts for nearly as long. He currently broadcasts regularly on BBC Radio 4.

Zélie Gross is enthusiastic about enabling participants on her courses to discover their unique gifts and abilities and to broaden their experience through exposure to new stimuli and fresh challenges. Zélie brings her background in art teaching to an essentially creative approach to learning, together with a preference for collaborative ways of working and techniques that promote playful experiment.



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