



WOODBROOKE

JANUARY
TO MAY
UPDATE



LEARN

Woodbrooke Learning

January to May 2022



Welcome to Woodbrooke



Welcome to our first brochure of 2022 with our new offering of courses and sessions up to May, as well as some events later in the year.

We hope that these will spark your interest, nourish your Quaker journey and strengthen your Quaker communities.

Our offering includes a new project exploring change making and Quaker faith through a series of intergenerational conversations (pages 18-19) and opportunities to join with other Quakers to act on our commitment to faith-based climate justice (pages 20-21). There are also a range of courses exploring Quaker history, spirituality, and the Bible as well as opportunities to strengthen Quaker community and deepen Quaker witness.

I know that Quaker meetings and other groups are giving thought to how they can come together for fellowship and learning. **Woodbrooke Where You Are (WWYA)** offers the perfect opportunity for this with in-person events, blended workshops and online options. You might be particularly interested in two new workshops to help you discern how to respond to the climate crisis as a meeting. You can find out more about these on our website at www.woodbrooke.org.uk/wwya

We are already planning our programme for late spring and beyond. We will be offering some courses and retreats at the Woodbrooke Centre. We also have some weekends available for meetings or groups to hold a residential event and we can offer tailored input from one of our experienced team of tutors to enhance your time together.

We will be publicising more events in the months to come as we navigate how we can best offer learning and nurture in a changing and challenging world. 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.

We look forward to welcoming you on one of our courses, at online worship or to the Woodbrooke Centre in Birmingham over the next year.

Simon Best, Head of Learning.

Course index

Spiritual Nurture and Pastoral Care in Quaker Meetings Tue 4 Jan - Thu 17 Feb	10	Acting on our Corporate Commitment to Faith-based Climate Justice (Feb) Wed 2 Feb	20-21
Galatians: Paul's Gospel of Liberation Thu 6 Jan - Wed 2 Feb	10	The Ecstatic Utterances of Rumi Thu 3 Feb - Thu 3 Mar	22
Spirituality and Creative Practice: Walking with Words Sat 8 Jan	11	Kindful Eating Sat 5 Feb - Fri 18 Mar	22
Jesus Against Empire: Solidarity, Liberation, and the Poor in the time of Jesus Mon 10 Jan - Sun 6 Feb	11	Freeing the Imagination: Creative and devotional writing (Feb) Sun 6 Feb	23
A Foundation in Nonviolent Communication Mon 10 Jan - Sun 20 Feb	12	Being a Quaker Clerk Fri 11 Feb - Thu 24 Mar	23
Tools for re-finding connection at a time of polarisation Wed 12 Jan - Tue 22 Feb	12	Restorative Approaches for Tackling Inequalities Sat 12 Feb	24
Talking Philosophy Thu 13 Jan - Sun 27 Feb	13	Rufus Jones: pioneer of Liberal Quakerism Tue 15 Feb	24
Enquiring Into Ideas of Belonging and Accountability in Community Thu 13 Jan	13	Faith Communities: Resisting burnout, managing disagreement (Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking 2) Wed 16 Feb	18-19
A Light in the Darkness Sat 15 Jan	14	Gender Diversity: A Quaker Approach Fri 18 Feb - Sun 20 Feb	25
Praying With Our Minds Mon 17 Jan - Sun 13 Feb	14	Women Who Speak for God: Prophetesses in the Bible Mon 21 Feb - Sun 3 Apr	25
Early Quakers in their Own Words: Spirituality Mon 17 Jan - Sun 27 Feb	15	Rethinking Security: Steps to sustainable peace with justice Thu 24 Feb - Wed 30 Mar	26
Eva Koch Part 1: 'Centering prayer' and Giving in Friends Church Africa Thu 20 Jan	15	Atonement in the Theology of James Nayler Thu 24 Feb	26
Quakers, Hope and the Jesus Story Sat 22 Jan - Sat 29 Jan	16	Foundations in Restorative Practice for Quaker Meetings Sat 26 Feb - Fri 8 Apr	27
Caring: a retreat Mon 24 Jan - Thu 27 Jan	16	Welcoming and Working Together Remotely: Quaker practices online Mon 28 Feb - Fri 25 Mar	27
Eva Koch Part 2: 'Our Friends and Other Animals' and Lessons from Friends against Nuclear Weapons Thu 27 Jan	17	Nontheist Approaches to Religious Language Mon 28 Feb - Sun 27 Mar	28
Quaker Nominations Fri 28 Jan - Thu 17 Mar	17	Acting on our Corporate Commitment to Faith-based Climate Justice (March) Tue 1 Mar	20-21
Using Our Quaker History to Define Changemaking (Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking 1) Tue 1 Feb	18-19		

Working Collaboratively: How do Friends work with movements, partners, ecumenical and interfaith groups? (Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking 3) Wed 2 Mar	18-19
Quaker in Europe Mon 7 Mar - Sun 17 Apr	28
Quaker Roots in Advices and Queries Mon 7 Mar - Sun 17 Apr	29
Enquiring Into Ideas Of Belonging And Diversity In Culture Thu 10 Mar	29
A Non-Violent Apocalypse: The Book of Revelation for Quakers Tue 15 Mar - Tue 12 Apr	30
Finding Resilience in a Time of Climate Emergency (Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking 4) Wed 16 Mar	18-19
Building Resilience in Ourselves and in our Communities Fri 18 Mar - Thu 28 Apr	30
Writing Retreat Sun 20 Mar - Fri 25 Mar	31
Experiencing a Changed World: How Are We Being Reshaped? Fri 25 Mar - Sun 27 Mar	32
Worship Sharing and Reflection (Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking 5) Wed 30 Mar	18-19
What's next? Becoming an anti-racist ally Thu 31 Mar - Wed 25 May	33
Acting on our Corporate Commitment to Faith-based Climate Justice (April) Tue 5 Apr	20-21
Quakers and Encounters: Annual conference of CRQS and QSRA Thu 7 Apr - Thu 13 Oct	34
Joining the Dots: Understanding the connections between climate, peace and social justice issues Sat 9 Apr - Fri 13 May	35
Why Attend Meeting for Worship if you Don't Believe in God? Tue 12 Apr	35

Planning for the Future: Faith in action (Foundations and Future of Quaker Changemaking 6) Wed 13 Apr	18-19
Responding to Ecological Crisis: Quaker spiritual insights - Facilitators' course Mon 18 Apr - Sun 29 May	36
Who's Making the Decisions? An exploration of the structures of Britain Yearly Meeting Sat 23 Apr	37
Are Quakers Christian? Tue 26 Apr	37
Essentials of Quakerism Tue 3 May - Mon 30 May	38
Acting on our Corporate Commitment to Faith-based Climate Justice (May) Tue 3 May	20-21
Quaker Ways of Knowing Wed 4 May	38



Learning Courses

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

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

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

TUE 4 JAN - THU 17 FEB

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.

Tutors: Helen Chambers, Gilly Charters and Martin Pennock

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online learning material
- Workshop(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

- Monday 10 January
- Tuesday 18 January
- Monday 24 January
- Tuesday 1 February
- Monday 7 February
- Tuesday 15 February

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

THU 6 JAN - WED 2 FEB

The Bible

GALATIANS: PAUL'S GOSPEL OF LIBERATION

£54

'For freedom Christ has set us free'. This strange phrase is the heart of Paul's teaching in this letter. The liberation you experienced is meant to continue to guide the whole of your life.

This is Paul's most radical expression of how the experience of the Spirit can transform how people think of themselves and treat each other. We will tackle the text step by step, aiming to bring Paul's words alive, noting how issues of translation sometimes obscure the force of what he says. Along the way, we will see deep connections with Quaker understandings of the living word and Paul's confidence that faith in that word can bring about a new creation.

Tutor: Timothy Ashworth

This course includes:

- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

MON 10 JAN - SUN 6 FEB

History & Theology

JESUS AGAINST EMPIRE: SOLIDARITY, LIBERATION, AND THE POOR IN THE TIME OF JESUS

£54

Jesus is many things to many people. For some, he is the Lord of the Cosmos, for others, he was a good teacher, while others see his life as a hoax. What if we were to look at Jesus empathetically and tried to understand him from his perspective and in his time?

In this course, you will take seriously Jesus' life as one who resisted empire with his body and sought to build a community of resistance in the world. In each session we will read and discuss Gospel accounts of Jesus, consider First Century context and ways that Jesus subverted power as a poor person, and consider how Friends might resist empire today in ways similar to Jesus.

Tutor: C Wess Daniels

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

SAT 8 JAN

Spirituality & Retreats

SPIRITUALITY AND CREATIVE PRACTICE: WALKING WITH WORDS

14:00-16:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

This session is about how we can use creative writing to explore moments or memories by engaging our awareness from the inside and the out. You will have the opportunity to walk (outdoors, or inside if the weather is inclement) with a phrase or word from one of the exercises.

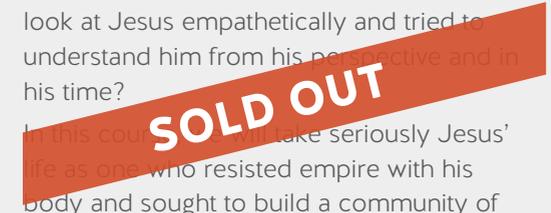
This series of sessions enables people to learn from practising artists about their different creative practices and how they connect to and enrich their spiritual practice. The sessions are interactive, giving participants the opportunity to try out or explore the creative practice themselves.

Tutors: Tracey Martin and Alison Lock

This course includes:

- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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



MON 10 JAN - SUN 20 FEB

Peace & Social Justice

A FOUNDATION IN NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION

£86

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) creates a path for healing and reconciliation in its many applications, ranging from intimate relationships, work settings, health care, social services, police, prison staff and inmates, to governments, schools and social change organisations.

On this course we will first focus on empathy for the self and from there learn to empathise with others and express ourselves from the heart. We will learn to clarify what we are observing, what we are feeling, what values we want to live by, and what we want to ask of ourselves and others, while using our power in a way that honours everyone's needs. We will learn to move away from the language of blame, judgment or domination.

This course is a recognised stepping stone to further NVC training. A certificate of completion will be provided.

Tutors: Therese Bentley and Jenny Tipping

This course includes:

- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Workshop(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Monday at 19:00-21:15 (UK time).

CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFO & TO BOOK

WED 12 JAN - TUE 22 FEB

Peace & Social Justice, Supporting Quaker Communities

TOOLS FOR RE-FINDING CONNECTION AT A TIME OF POLARISATION

£60

We seem to live in a time of exceptional division and polarisation: around attitudes to the earth, climate change, migration, economic systems, politics, Brexit, Covid-19. Fundamentally not agreeing on issues that are important to us with friends, family members, neighbours or colleagues can cause us deep pain and a sense of grief, loss and loss. At a broad level, creating a sense that in our community or country there is a mass of people who believe in things to which we are fundamentally opposed can increase our sense of despair, anger and fearfulness for the future. In this course we will explore some of the ways we unknowingly participate in polarisation, and practice simple but profound tools for re-discovering a sense of connection and togetherness with people we don't agree with. We will explore how to have disagreements in a way that nourishes connection and relationship whilst honouring and expressing our own values and beliefs.

Tutor: Tanya Hubbard

This course includes:

- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Workshop(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

THU 13 JAN

Exploring Quakerism, Supporting Quaker Communities

ENQUIRING INTO IDEAS OF BELONGING AND ACCOUNTABILITY IN COMMUNITY

19:00-21:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

Would you like to explore your thinking about how we belong to and are accountable in Quaker communities in a respectful and rigorous way? In this session we will form a community of enquiry to provide the opportunity for dialogue and discussion that enable different views to be heard.

This is one of our courses using the Philosophy for Children (P4C) method. P4C encourages creative, critical, collaborative and caring thinking to bring people together for lively discussions about ideas, grounded in lived experience. The sessions will be facilitated by two experienced Friends who have used P4C in a variety of contexts with children, adults and in mixed aged groups. The sessions will be fruitful for participants with a variety of Quaker experience - for enquirers, attenders, new or more seasoned Friends.

For more information about P4C go to www.sapere.org.uk.

Tutors: Rosie Carnall and Jude Acton

This course includes:

- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

THU 13 JAN - SUN 27 FEB

History & Theology

TALKING PHILOSOPHY

£60

We will discuss topics central to philosophy (knowledge, mind and body, and free-will) and engage philosophically with topics of very general interest (sex, war, and death).

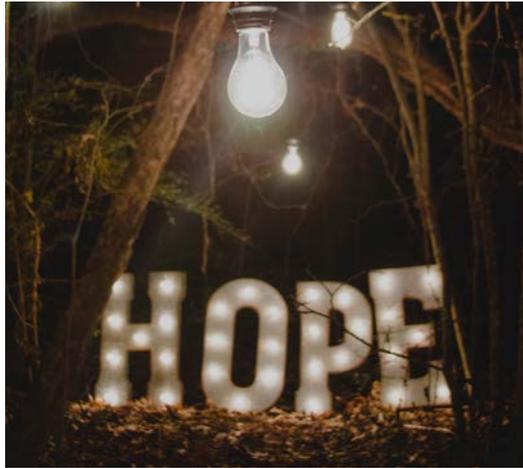
We will take as our starting point Thomas Nagel's very clear introduction 'What Does It All Mean?' - readings of interest to Quakers should be available, avoiding dry academic texts. In our discussions we will try to be clear, without turning away from difficult problems. We will try to practice simplicity and integrity when engaging with difficult philosophical issues. No previous knowledge - or lack of knowledge - will be assumed.

Tutor: Andrew Jack

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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



SAT 15 JAN

Spirituality & Retreats

A LIGHT IN THE DARKNESS

10:00-16:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

A day of reflection and contemplation on what gives us hope and sustenance in the light and in the dark.

The day will combine poetry, music and readings from the Bible and Quaker texts with individual reflection and worship sharing. It will be an opportunity to retreat from the world for a while with the aim of going back into it feeling stronger and more supported.

Tutor: Tracey Martin

This course includes:

- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

MON 17 JAN - SUN 13 FEB

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:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

MON 17 JAN - SUN 27 FEB

History & Theology, Spirituality & Retreats EARLY QUAKERS IN THEIR OWN WORDS: SPIRITUALITY

£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 spirituality and personal experience.

This will help us to understand these Friends better and consider what their words mean for us today. Some of the words are very well-known and others less so. The passages will include writings by Edward Burrough, Steven Crisp, Margaret Fell, George Fox, William Leddra, James Nayler, Gertrude Derix Nieson, and Isaac Penington.

Tutor: Stuart Masters

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every other Tuesday at 19:00-20:00 (UK time) on Tuesday 25 January, Tuesday 8 February and Tuesday 22 February.

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



THU 20 JAN

Spirituality & Retreats

EVA KOCH PART 1: 'CENTERING PRAYER' AND GIVING IN FRIENDS CHURCH AFRICA

16:00-17:30 (UK time) • Pay as Led

An opportunity to find out more about the research of Woodbrooke's Eva Koch Scholars. Rosemary Field will share her exploration of what the method of 'centering prayer' has to offer Friends as personal spiritual practice and as a means of enhancing the experience of Meeting for Worship. Alfred Wasaike will talk about his research into ways in which the Friends Church can promote the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals to help raise giving in the Church in Africa.

Tutors: Ben Pink Dandelion, Rosemary Field and Alfred Wasike

This course includes:

- Speaker(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

SAT 22 JAN - SAT 29 JAN

History & Theology

QUAKERS, HOPE AND THE JESUS STORY

£65

What is the Quaker hope? Through a series of talks and opportunities for questions and discussion, Mark Russ will offer a vision of Quaker hope that springs from the Jesus story.

This will involve exploring the relationship between hope and narrative, and how Quakerism has gradually lost a sense of being part of a unifying story. Mark will suggest that certain liberal Quaker beliefs work against Quakers being a community of hope, and offer ways to build hopefulness which are rooted in the Quaker tradition. This is an opportunity to engage with Quaker theological thought that is current and creative.

Tutor: Mark Russ

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online learning material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are on Saturday 22 January and Saturday 29 January, 09:30-20:30 (UK time) with substantial breaks.

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

MON 24 JAN - THU 27 JAN

Spirituality & Retreats

CARING: A RETREAT

£48

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.

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.

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:

- Workshop(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are:

- Monday 09:30-12:30
- Tuesday 08:30-09:00 (Meeting for worship)
- Tuesday 19:00-20:00
- Wednesday 08:30-09:00 (Meeting for worship)
- Wednesday 19:00-20:00
- Thursday 08:30-09:00 (Meeting for worship)
- Thursday 19:00-20:30

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

THU 27 JAN

Peace & Social Justice

EVA KOCH PART 2: 'OUR FRIENDS AND OTHER ANIMALS' AND LESSONS FROM FRIENDS AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

16:00-17:30 (UK time) • Pay as Led

An opportunity to find out more about the research of Woodbrooke's Eva Koch Scholars. Jasmine Piercy will share her work on the theme, 'Our Friends and Other Animals': how we might extend our Quaker testimony to all species. Adopting a fresh, hopeful and non-judgemental approach, she has been engaging with Friends creatively through her online 'Museum of Animal Stuff', artefacts derived from animals, collected and curated into an interactive exhibition: www.mazingstuff.org.

Till Geiger will talk about his project exploring the response of Quakers to the emergence of the nuclear weapons as an existential threat not just to world peace but also to the very existence of humanity. By unearthing their witness, can this research provide lessons and helpful narratives for Friends today as we face the existential threat of the climate emergency?

Tutors: Ben Pink Dandelion, Jasmine Piercy and Till Geiger

This course includes:

- Speaker(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

FRI 28 JAN - THU 17 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities

QUAKER NOMINATIONS

£115

This six week online course is for anyone involved in Quaker nominations. That means all of us, but if you are on a nominations committee this course will be particularly relevant for you. We will aim to root ourselves in good practices of discernment whilst responding to the particular issues that face us. Nominations are at the quiet heart of the way we live together as Friends, when we listen faithfully to one another. By taking regular time each week over six weeks to reflect, we hope you will gain a renewed insight, confidence and practical tools, to increase the potential of nominations to strengthen meetings and enable them to flourish. Every Monday during the course there will be a Zoom session for 90 minutes which we hope you will be able to join; it's a good way to learn from each other and share experiences and issues. For a couple of the sessions we have invited speakers.

Tutors: Christine Habgood-Coote and Catherine Putz

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Workshop(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Monday (apart from 21 February) at 17:00-18:30 (UK time).



Climate Crisis, Peace & Social Justice

FOUNDATIONS AND FUTURE OF QUAKER CHANGEMAKING

Pay as Led • 18:30-20:00 (UK time)

Together, let's explore what love can do when it's rooted in the Quaker community.

This project will explore change-making and Quaker faith through a series of intergenerational conversations. It will be an opportunity for Friends to get to know Quakers of different ages living in other parts of the world.

In each of this series of sessions, we will hear from those who've spent much of their lives devoted to Quaker witness and from those who are envisioning what the future of work for peace, justice, and climate action might look like.

Friends will share the resources they find in their Quaker faith for sustaining a life of social action.

There will be a live session on a different topic every fortnight (bookable separately) and booking for one session will give you access to the course on Moodle (Woodbrooke's online learning site) where recordings of every session will be made available. You can choose to attend any single session, several or all of the sessions.

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

TUE 1 FEB

USING OUR QUAKER HISTORY TO DEFINE CHANGEMAKING

In this session we will delve into our history as Friends to think about what change-making is, when and why we're called to engage in it, and how we can find resources in our history and tradition to persevere.

WED 16 FEB

FAITH COMMUNITIES: RESISTING BURNOUT, MANAGING DISAGREEMENT

This session will explore the role of community, and particularly faith communities, in helping us to resist burnout, manage disagreement, and make decisions about action and witness.

WED 2 MAR

WORKING COLLABORATIVELY: HOW DO FRIENDS WORK WITH MOVEMENTS, PARTNERS, ECUMENICAL AND INTERFAITH GROUPS?

In this session we will consider how Quakers work for change with other movements, partners, and ecumenical and interfaith groups. We will think about how we can work together across divides of faith and practice in the context of a central aspect of Quaker faith: friendship.

WED 16 MAR

FINDING RESILIENCE IN A TIME OF CLIMATE EMERGENCY

This session will explore how we can find resilience - managing hope and despair, optimism and pessimism - in times of climate emergency. We will focus on how grounding witness in Friends' faith can help us to be resilient, and we will think about the connection between faith and action.

WED 30 MAR

WORSHIP SHARING AND REFLECTION

Providing an opportunity to share in worship and reflection for those who have either attended a live session or watched after the fact via Moodle. We will come together and share thoughts and ideas which have come to you from the sessions so far. There will be no speakers this week. If you have signed up for any of the previous sessions we recommend attending this one too.

WED 13 APR

PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: FAITH IN ACTION

In this session we will reflect on the previous sessions and explore how the interplay between faith and action might express itself in our own lives. We will consider what a sustainable inner life for change-making might look like, the challenge of truthfulness in difficult times, and where we go from here. You are not required to have attended the previous sessions to register for this one.



Climate Crisis

ACTING ON OUR CORPORATE COMMITMENT TO FAITH-BASED CLIMATE JUSTICE

Pay as Led • 19:00-20:30 (UK time)

Do you want to join with other Quakers to act on our commitment to faith-based climate justice? Do you want to find out and learn from what others are doing? We are stronger together. These monthly live sessions are an opportunity to be together in spirit and to learn about different ways in which we can take action.

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Zoom session(s)

These monthly sessions (bookable individually) are open to all Quakers who are concerned about the climate crisis and want to take action in their personal lives and with others. We will deepen the spiritual grounding of this work, explore a particular theme or approach and have time to network with each other to learn and explore possibilities for working together. Resources from all the sessions will be made available to participants.

Themes will include: working in solidarity with those most affected, engaging our meetings, QPSW campaigning work, working with other churches and other faiths, working with Quakers across the world, creative approaches to awareness raising and protest, involving children and families.

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

WED 2 FEB

ENGAGING YOUR MEETING

You are keen to take action but perhaps others in your meeting feel bewildered, fearful, confused or simply feel they don't have the time or there's nothing they can do. How can you get people interested and involved? Stuart Masters of Woodbrooke offers some spiritual ways in and Naomi Major, Team Leader - Witness & Collaboration, Quaker Life, gives practical tips.

TUE 1 MAR

ACTING IN SOLIDARITY WITH THOSE MOST AFFECTED

In our daily lives, in our spiritual practice, in our witness on the climate crisis, how can we put the words, the hopes and the rights of those most affected by the climate crisis first? This session offers spiritual guidance as well as challenging us to be good companions.

TUE 5 APR

WORKING WITH CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

More details coming soon...

TUE 3 MAY

BUILDING ACTIVE COMMUNITIES

How can we use our learning about climate justice and faith in action to engage in effective collective action? Many people struggle with moving beyond mobilising people for a specific purpose like a demonstration or letter-writing campaign, to sustaining long-term work for justice. What tools can we use to build and sustain communities committed to action for change?

THU 3 FEB - THU 3 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

THE ECSTATIC UTTERANCES OF RUMI

£55

A meditative introduction to Rumi, a 13th century Sufi poet. Gazing into the face of a scruffy dervish, Rumi's life was utterly transformed. He entered into ecstatic dance spilling thousands of ecstatic odes. In our challenging times, how may this ancient Turkish poet help us travel through our world more cheerfully, recognising the Divine in all we encounter? Guided by a knowledgeable and experienced tutor, each week you will read and reflect on one or two of Rumi's poems. There will then be space to respond creatively, through words and movement. This course is for anyone who is open to poetry, perhaps a bit of ecstasy, and who may be engaged by Rumi's belief that our helplessness and brokenness are the way. No prior experience of Rumi is necessary.

Tutor: Dana Littlepage Smith

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Thursday at 19:00-20:15 (UK time).

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

SAT 5 FEB - FRI 18 MAR

Climate Crisis, Peace & Social Justice

KINDFUL EATING

£54

Eating, wellbeing, body confidence and society interlink. This course helps people make sense of food, health and self-worth by exploring the many reasons behind why we eat what we eat and why thinness is valued. Whether you're curious for personal, professional, or other reasons, the course is an opportunity to question received ideas and learn practical approaches to change.

Delivered through a combination of interactive live sessions, video tutorials and online activities, this course will leave you with practices for self-acceptance and a deeper understanding of how compassion supports eating for wellbeing.

We will join-the-dots between food, body respect, health outcomes, compassion, acceptance, and social influences with opportunities to share thoughts and experiences. Tutor Lucy Aphramor is a specialist dietitian recognised internationally for her work in this field.

Tutor: Lucy Aphramor

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

FRI 11 FEB - THU 24 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities

BEING A QUAKER CLERK

£115

In this online course we explore the clerk's role before, during and after a Meeting for Worship for Business. We will also consider why we use our particular way of making decisions in our meetings, including meeting online.

There will be a focus on clerking local meetings, but clerks of other meetings and Quaker groups, including area meetings, will also find they can learn much about their role. This course is primarily for new or prospective clerks with little or no experience of Quaker clerking.

Tutors: Judith Roads, Anne Ullathorne and Michael O'Connor

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online learning material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

- Wednesday 16 February
- Tuesday 22 February
- Thursday 17 March

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

SUN 6 FEB

Spirituality & Retreats

FREEING THE IMAGINATION: CREATIVE AND DEVOTIONAL WRITING

14:00-17:30 (UK time) • £35

Want to write from the heart, either creatively or devotionally? These four sessions of retreat will offer the 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. This is the first of four sessions (bookable individually) and in later sessions we will build on our previous session's work. We recommend booking for all four sessions, so that we can create a writing community across the year.

Tutors: Rosie Carnall and Ben Pink Dandelion

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Zoom session(s)

Further sessions are bookable now for:

- Sunday 8 May, 14:00-17:30 (UK time)
- Sunday 7 August, 14:00-17:30 (UK time)
- Sunday 2 October, 14:00-17:30 (UK time)

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

SAT 12 FEB

Peace & Social Justice, Supporting Quaker Communities

RESTORATIVE APPROACHES FOR TACKLING INEQUALITIES

10:00-16:30 (UK time) • £30

How can we tackle harms to identity, such as racism? Restorative Practice is concerned not with ‘what rule has been broken’ but with ‘what harm has been caused’. Harms to identity are evidenced as hurting more than other kinds of harm. How can we, individually and collectively, develop our responsibility for recognising and tackling such harms? There is an urgent need to promote skills and confidence for tackling racism - not simply ‘calling it out’ but ensuring that the harm caused is understood and owned and will not happen again. This workshop will invite participants to consider that everyone has a complex and unique identity as well as being shaped by social and historic forces.

Tutors: Rajan Naidu and Deborah Mitchell

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online learning material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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



TUE 15 FEB

History & Theology

RUFUS JONES: PIONEER OF LIBERAL QUAKERISM

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • Pay as Led

Rufus Jones (1863-1948) had a profound influence on Quakers on both sides of the Atlantic. This session provides a brief introduction to his life and thought.

This session will explore why Jones was so influential, and take a critical look at his innovative approach to Quaker history and theology. By providing an insight into the roots of contemporary Quakerism, this session will give you a better understanding of Liberal Quakerism today. This 90-minute session will combine talks, discussion and time for questions.

Tutors: Mark Russ

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Speaker(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

MON 21 FEB - SUN 3 APR

The Bible

WOMEN WHO SPEAK FOR GOD: PROPHETESSES IN THE BIBLE

£54

From Miriam and Deborah to Mary and Anna, there are women throughout the Bible who are named as prophets and give prophetic speeches. Who are these women who speak for God?

In this six-week course, we will explore the stories of these prophetesses in the Bible and how they appear in culture. How can we understand these narratives? How do they reflect our own experiences? Focusing on the passages about female prophets will give us a deeper understanding of how God calls people to prophetic work, in the Bible and now. The course will draw on The Women’s Lectionary: Preaching The Women of the Bible throughout the Year (Westminster John Knox Press, 2021), by Ashley M. Wilcox. It will include a combination of lectures and experiential activities, with small and large group discussions.

Tutor: Ashley Wilcox

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

FRI 18 FEB - SUN 20 FEB

Supporting Quaker Communities

GENDER DIVERSITY: A QUAKER APPROACH

£30

This weekend aims to demystify gender diversity by hearing personal stories. Quakers in Britain have stated that they ‘acknowledge and affirm the trans and gender diverse Friends in our Quaker communities, and express appreciation for the contribution and gifts that they bring to our meetings.’ This course will help you and your Quaker community put this affirmation into practice, whether that’s welcoming the transgender newcomer who is seeking a spiritual home, supporting a longstanding Friend who ‘comes out’, or better understanding a relative who is trans or non-binary.

The course content includes our own and others’ personal experiences; practicalities of affirmation; factual basics, including terminology and history; spiritual life and trans Quaker testimony, the nature of pastoral care, and some arts/cultural representations of gender.

Tutors: Fred Langridge and Yvonne Estop-Wood

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

Seven 90-minute **live sessions** are spread across the weekend beginning on Friday evening, ending at Sunday lunchtime.

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

THU 24 FEB - WED 30 MAR

Peace & Social Justice, Climate Crisis,
Supporting Quaker Communities

RETHINKING SECURITY: STEPS TO SUSTAINABLE PEACE WITH JUSTICE

£45

Peace and security have never been simply about not carrying or using weapons. For security to be real and lasting, issues of social and climate justice, of economics and human rights need to be addressed alongside disarmament and conflict resolution. This course will outline what different approaches, issues and people need to be included in defining security in order to achieve true human and ecological security, and how you could be part of creating that through Rethinking Security's Alternative Security Review (<https://rethinkingsecurity.org.uk>). Participants will be able to read and discuss current thinking and research on what security is and what we need to do to achieve it. In the final week you will have the opportunity to train to collect information for the Alternative Security Review.

Tutors: Philip Austin and Jo Frew

This course includes:

- Online discussion forum
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Monday at 18:00-19:30 (UK time).

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



THU 24 FEB

History & Theology

ATONEMENT IN THE THEOLOGY OF JAMES NAYLER

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • Pay as Led

In this single live session, we will explore how the early Quaker leader, James Nayler, understood the doctrine of atonement. What did Jesus Christ achieve in his life, death and resurrection, and what impact does this have on humanity? Is there something distinctive in this early Quaker vision?

Tutor: Stuart Masters

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Zoom session(s)

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

MON 28 FEB - FRI 25 MAR

Supporting Quaker Communities

WELCOMING AND WORKING TOGETHER REMOTELY: QUAKER PRACTICES ONLINE

£48

How can we use Zoom and other online platforms for worship, Quaker business, and discernment? Quakerism has always been an experimental faith which is "open to new light" - what have we learnt in the last two years and how can we build on this? Zoom has advantages and disadvantages - it isn't preferred by everyone. It can be enabling for those Friends who find it difficult to travel to meetings. Zoom can open possibilities for national and international cooperation in line with our concerns about climate change. We will look at how we can adapt our traditions and practices to take advantage of new IT such as; using Zoom for Quaker business meetings, tools for discernment, Gathertown for informal conversations and how to hold an international children's meeting. During the weekly Zoom sessions participants can have a bit of fun trying out some of these new ideas in a supportive group.

Tutors: Christine Habgood Coote and Richard Drake

This course includes:

- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

SAT 26 FEB - FRI 8 APR

Peace & Social Justice, Supporting Quaker Communities

FOUNDATIONS IN RESTORATIVE PRACTICE FOR QUAKER MEETINGS

£60

This course is designed to support Quaker groups or Meetings learning about Restorative Justice as an everyday practice which can support and strengthen community. Each session will also offer experiential learning, although online, working in a 'circle'. We will consider the Restorative model as a practical expression of Quaker testimonies and share the relevance for building community in response to diminishing resources, for tackling the harms caused by climate change and by racism, and for supporting children and young people to better look after themselves and each other. We will introduce the key Restorative principles in different contexts and create a group approach to problem-solving through communication, which lies at the heart of Restorative practice.

Tutors: Emma Thompson and Deborah Mitchell

This course includes:

- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

MON 28 FEB - SUN 27 MAR

Exploring Quakerism, History & Theology
NONTHEIST APPROACHES TO RELIGIOUS LANGUAGE

£45

Many Quakers today attend worship but find words like ‘God’ or ‘Spirit’ difficult. What can we say about a Divine we can’t understand and may not believe in? This course explores ineffability, metaphor, and other aspects of this challenge. If you are a nontheist, atheist, agnostic or simply have questions about traditional religious language, this course will help you to understand the problems involved and consider alternatives. If you are fine with talking about God, the Inward Light, or other terms, this course will help you understand why other people find those words difficult and may prefer not to use them. This course has four live discussion sessions. We start by considering how we learn words and how context shapes our understanding. We then explore what happens when something is ineffable or cannot be expressed in words, and how metaphor and other poetic tools help us say things indirectly. Finally, we will look at how Quakers are facing these challenges and how different approaches play out in communities.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

MON 7 MAR - SUN 17 APR

Exploring Quakerism, Supporting Quaker Communities
QUAKER IN EUROPE

Pay as Led

An exploration of the Quaker way from a European-wide perspective. Would you like to learn alongside other participants from across Europe; studying, reflecting and supporting one another as we engage with the key themes of Quakerism?

Modules will include Quaker history, worship, process, testimony and experience. Texts, videos, galleries, quizzes and links to further resources will provide the main course content, with sharing forums and weekly Zoom sessions enhancing our learning together.

This course has been developed and newly revised in collaboration with EMES. It is open to all, whether new or experienced Friends.

Tutors: Jasmine Piercy, Jeannette Tien-Wei Law and Liz Coling

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Wednesday at 18:00-19:00 (UK time)

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

MON 7 MAR - SUN 17 APR

History & Theology
QUAKER ROOTS IN ADVICES AND QUERIES

£60

This course explores Advices and Queries, which have been carefully drafted and developed over the years to reflect Quaker insights, concerns and practices. The current version in Quaker Faith and Practice still retains biblical allusions, and references from 17th century Quaker writings. In this course we will look at ten examples of this. Working through this material will enable you to gain a deeper understanding of the early Quaker vision, and consider what this heritage means to you. You will also have the opportunity to reflect on how the Advices and Queries inspire and challenge you in your life as a Quaker today. The course, which runs over six weeks, will include recorded presentations, questions for reflection, written resources and a discussion forum. We will also meet together in three short live sessions to share our reflections and responses.

Tutor: Stuart Masters

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are at 19:00-20:00 (UK time) on: Thursday 17 March, Thursday 31 March and Thursday 14 April

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

THU 10 MAR

Exploring Quakerism, Supporting Quaker Communities
ENQUIRING INTO IDEAS OF BELONGING AND DIVERSITY IN CULTURE

19:00-21:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

What is your experience of fitting in or feeling different? Would you like to talk more about how Quaker communities interact with dominant social and cultural structures?

In this session we will form a community of enquiry to provide the opportunity for dialogue and discussion that enable different views to be heard.

This is one of a bi-monthly series using the Philosophy for Communities (P4C) method. P4C encourages creative, critical, collaborative and caring thinking to bring people together for lively discussions about ideas, grounded in lived experience. The sessions will be facilitated by two experienced Friends who have used P4C in a variety of contexts with children, adults and in mixed aged groups. The sessions will be fruitful for participants with a variety of Quaker experience - for enquirers, attenders, new or more seasoned Friends.

For more information about P4C go to www.sapere.org.uk.

Tutors: Rosie Carnall and Jude Acton

This course includes:

- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

TUE 15 MAR - TUE 12 APR

The Bible

A NON-VIOLENT APOCALYPSE: THE BOOK OF REVELATION FOR QUAKERS

£54

To the contemporary reader, the Book of Revelation can appear fantastical, shocking or incomprehensible. This course presents Revelation as a radical, nonviolent political manifesto that is vital to understanding the message of early Quakers, and still highly relevant to the 21st Century church.

By the end of this course, you will understand what an ‘apocalypse’ is, and who Revelation was originally written for. You will understand key symbols in Revelation, how early Quakers used them, and how these symbols can be used today. This course is ideal for those who are interested in Bible study, the early Quakers, or Quaker theology.

The course will take place over five 90-minute sessions. Each session will involve a combination of talks, discussion and Bible study. Extensive notes will be available to download.

Tutor: Mark Russ

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

FRI 18 MAR - THU 28 APR

Climate Crisis, Supporting Quaker Communities

BUILDING RESILIENCE IN OURSELVES AND IN OUR COMMUNITIES

£45

If you feel powerless in the face of the challenges that the climate crisis will present us with, this course aims to help you find ways to care for yourself, and find hope through local, practical action within your community, whether that is your local Quaker meeting, your street, or your town.

The course will encourage participants to share their emotions around the climate crisis, and share ways of spiritual nourishment to assist with grief, anger and despair.

Moving to the practical, participants will share the experiences of their own communities in coping with the pandemic crisis in 2020-21. We will pool ideas for building resilience so that participants leave the course enthused to engage with their communities to build resilience – whether in practical, emotional, or social ways.

Tutors: Rachel Berger and Gill Westcott

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Tuesday at 19:00-21:00 (UK time) apart from Tuesday 18 April when there will not be a session.

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



SUN 20 MAR - FRI 25 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

WRITING RETREAT

£840 residential, £715 non-resident

Needing time to write and wishing to do so in community? This week-long retreat offers the perfect opportunity to develop academic or creative writing alongside others.

Set in beautiful and quiet surroundings, this retreat is open to anyone looking for space and time for writing, whether starting a new project, or to take forward or finish off a current piece. There will be the opportunity to hear from the tutors about their experience of writing, and one to one time with them, but the emphasis will be on creating a supportive environment to devote to the craft itself.

Each day will have a regular pattern with time

for worship, and writing, sharing, a chance for one-to-ones, and also particular discussions as we feel we need, with regular meal breaks and time for relaxation.

Tutors: John Gray and Ben Pink Dandelion

This course includes:

- Discussion
- One to ones
- Workshop(s)

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



FRI 25 MAR - SUN 27 MAR

Spirituality & Retreats

EXPERIENCING A CHANGED WORLD: HOW ARE WE BEING RESHAPED?

£335 residential, £215 non-resident, £115 online

Over the past two years all over the world every one of us has been subject to deep change and uncertainty. The responses of each of us have been different. We have heard much from politicians and health experts but what of our spiritual lives? What is it all meaning for our understanding and experience of faith and community?

Invited speakers in conversation will seek to create a space for us to think together deeply about what we have been through and its consequences, especially as it has impacted upon spiritual experience and faith communities.

Our first main theme will be the potential of the pandemic to enable us to think and feel differently as individuals and communities

about the challenges of the climate crisis. Secondly, we will consider how the pandemic has affected our spiritual lives as individuals and in community. What does this all mean for our continuing ecumenical and interfaith work?

This conference is a blended event. Presentations will be livestreamed to online participants. There will be separate discussion groups for those at Woodbrooke and those participating online but plenaries will be blended and, as far as possible, will be set up to enable participation for both in person and online participants. There will be online spaces outside the session times for those who are online to meet and talk with other online conference participants.

Until 31 January 2022, booking is only open to representatives from Area Quaker Meetings. After this date the remaining places will be available for other Friends to book.

Speakers: Jennifer Kavanagh, Alex Wildwood, Alastair McIntosh and Timothy Ashworth.

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Speaker(s)
- Zoom sessions (if attending online)

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

THU 31 MAR - WED 25 MAY

Peace & Social Justice

WHAT'S NEXT? BECOMING AN ANTI-RACIST ALLY

£45

Have you begun learning about anti-racism and feel familiar with the basic ideas but are unsure what to do next? This course will help you expand your learning on anti-racism and consider how to bring what you have learned into your every day life.

Using the book "This Book is Anti-Racist" by Tiffany Jewell, we will read the short chapters together in weekly meetings, and in between there will be practical assignments designed to build a toolkit to help move into action in anti-racism work. Embedded in the early chapters is an examination of our own identity, including the various communities we belong to (ie. 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.

Over the 8 weeks spent together we will examine the areas where we have privilege and agency – those where we can have an impact. We will map our neighbourhoods to find opportunities to interact with people not like us. We will identify strategies for dealing with racism when we see it.

Tutors: Rachael Swancott and Kate McNally



This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

THU 7 APR - THU 13 OCT

History & Theology

QUAKERS AND ENCOUNTERS

Annual conference of the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies (CRQS) and the Quaker Studies Research Association (QSRA)

£55 (£35 for CRQS students)

The 2022 annual CRQS and QSRA conference will explore the theme of Quakers and Encounters in a series of five short online sessions spread across the year.

Under this broad theme, we will consider how Quakers have interacted with the world and people around them, including their past and contemporary involvement in regional, national or global projects and networks. What were or are their experiences in such encounters? Papers will focus on a range of periods and geographical locations. Alongside this, the conference will consider how the study of Quakerism can be informed by new approaches and methodologies. The conference will include three open panel sessions and one devoted to the digital humanities. In May, Professor Emeritus Angus Winchester of Lancaster University will deliver the 2022 George Richardson lecture.

Tutors: Betty Hagglund, Ben Pink Dandelion and Rhiannon Grant



This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are at 18:30-21:00 (UK time) on: Thursday 7 April, Thursday 12 May (The George Richardson Lecture), Thursday 9 June, Thursday 8 September, Thursday 13 October

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

SAT 9 APR - FRI 13 MAY

Climate Crisis, Peace & Social Justice

JOINING THE DOTS: UNDERSTANDING THE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN CLIMATE, PEACE AND SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

£45

There are so many injustices to address. Which should I work on? How can I work on climate justice when I'm already so busy working on peace? When we look at root causes we can begin to see connections. When we understand how injustices are connected, we can think more strategically about how we can best work for change. In this course we will explore the connections between peace, climate, and social justice issues and identify common ground and root causes. We will then look at how this understanding might change how we work on a particular issue and how we ensure our work on one issue is not undermining work in another area.

Tutor: Tracey Martin

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Speaker(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are every Thursday at 19:00-20:30 (UK time) apart from 21 April when there will not be a session.

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

TUE 12 APR

Exploring Quakerism, History & Theology

WHY ATTEND MEETING FOR WORSHIP IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE IN GOD?

19:30-21:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

Why do some people who don't believe in God regularly participate in unprogrammed Quaker meeting for worship? This session will explore some of the many possible reasons to help us make sense out of this apparent contradiction.

Because unprogrammed Quaker worship is open to surprises and does not have creeds, we may be led in many directions – including away from external, paternalistic, or supernatural ideas about the divine. Whatever your experience, this session will help you to understand why, what some people see as an urgent and upsetting paradox, is a simple and sensible option for others.

In 90 minutes together, we will lay out the issue, looking at it from multiple perspectives. We will take time to share our own questions and understandings and listen carefully to others. Rhiannon Grant's research on how Quakers talk about God will help us to see how a shared commitment to truth can create a rich diversity of belief in our community.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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



MON 18 APR - SUN 29 MAY

Climate Crisis, Supporting Quaker Communities

RESPONDING TO ECOLOGICAL CRISIS: QUAKER SPIRITUAL INSIGHTS - FACILITATORS' COURSE

£45

This online course will enable you to work through a set of study materials using Quaker spiritual insights to help Friends reflect on, and discern their responses to the developing ecological crisis. To support meetings to use the materials, we are offering this course specifically for people who would like to facilitate the use of the materials in their Area Meeting or Local Meeting. Participants will learn the basics of online and in person facilitation and get a chance to practise in small groups. There will also be the opportunity for one-to-one support during the course. Priority will be given to those put forward by their Area Meetings.

Tutor: Tracey Martin and Stuart Masters

This course includes:

- Discussion
- One to ones
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Online learning material
- Recorded material
- Workshop(s)
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

Live sessions are on: Wed 27 April 19:00-21:00, Sat 7 May 10:00-16:00, Wed 11 May 19:00-20:00, Wed 18 May 19:00-20:30, Wed 25 May 19:00-20:00 (all UK time)

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

SAT 23 APR

Supporting Quaker Communities

WHO'S MAKING THE DECISIONS? AN EXPLORATION OF THE STRUCTURES OF BRITAIN YEARLY MEETING

13:30-17:30 (UK time) • Pay as Led

The structures of Quakers in Britain can seem overwhelming, but... we're here to straighten it out! Do you ever wonder what exactly happens at a Yearly Meeting? Do you wonder what Meeting for Sufferings is or how decisions get made and who makes them? How about what work is being done by Quakers around the world? This session may be able to help! In this one-off live Zoom session, we will look at the structures within Britain Yearly Meeting and hear about the work of other Quaker organisations and committees, including Woodbrooke, Friends World Committee for Consultation, Young Friends General Meeting, Central Nominations Committee, and more in the UK and beyond. Drawing on the knowledge of Friends from the various organisations and committees we will look at some Quaker history to expand our understanding and have plenty of time to ask questions and make something which can seem big and overwhelming, much clearer.

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Recorded material
- Written and visual materials
- Zoom session(s)

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

TUE 26 APR

Exploring Quakerism, History & Theology ARE QUAKERS CHRISTIAN?

19:30-21:00 (UK time) • Pay as Led

Are Quakers Christian? What does it mean to be Christian and does it matter whether we are or not? 'Yes' and 'no' may not be suitable answers here; rather, we will consider how and to what extent the Christian and Quaker traditions overlap.

If you have ever wondered if Quakers count as Christians, whether you are a Quaker or Christian or both or neither, you are welcome to join this session. We are unlikely to reach a single answer, but will make space for a wide range of alternatives. Paying careful attention to these will help you to reach your own conclusions.

Quakers and those around us frequently ask how our tradition relates to Christianity. Exploring this question involves history, theology, culture, current practice, politics, and personal commitments. In 90 minutes together we will touch on all of these aspects, making space for your perspectives and ideas, and helping you to understand why it is both an important and a continuing question.

Tutor: Rhiannon Grant

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Workshop(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

TUE 3 MAY - MON 30 MAY

Exploring Quakerism

ESSENTIALS OF QUAKERISM

£25

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

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

Tutors: Ben Pink Dandelion and Wendy Hampton

This course includes:

- Discussion
- Online discussion forum(s)
- Speaker(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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

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

WED 4 MAY

History & Theology

QUAKER WAYS OF KNOWING

19:00-20:30 (UK time) • Pay as Led

Do Quakers have a unique understanding of religious knowledge? In this session, we will consider whether religious knowledge is possible, and why, from a historical perspective, that has become a question that needs to be asked. Then we will look at Quaker ways of knowing, with special attention to how Quakers have grounded religious knowledge experientially.

Participants will have time in small groups to consider how their own religious and theological views are informed by their experiences, including not only religious experiences but other kinds of experience as well, such as aesthetic, ethical, and relational experiences.

The hope is that participants will gain not only a greater appreciation of how Quakerism offers a distinctive approach to religious knowledge, but also new insight into the relationships between their religious views and their own lived experience.

Tutors: Laura Rediehs

This course includes:

- Speaker(s)
- Zoom session(s)

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



Woodbrooke's Learning and Research Team



Simon Best is Head of Learning & Research and has overall responsibility for Woodbrooke's learning and research programmes. He is passionate about creating opportunities for Quakers to learn and grow individually and together as inclusive, all-age communities. Simon is responsible for supporting the Swarthmore Lecture Programme.



Alison Richards is the Deputy Head of Learning & Research. She is committed to educational quality assurance, ensuring that learning programmes will be well developed, resourced, managed and evaluated. She has experience in teacher education and is responsible for supporting and developing our team of Associate Tutors.



Jon Martin is Woodbrooke's Head of Communications and has over ten years of experience participating in and thinking about online and offline communities. He has a background in arts marketing and student union communications, as well as working as Outreach Marketing

Officer, and later Ministry and Outreach Officer, for Quakers in Britain. He has an MA in Politics from Lancaster University where his study focused on student movements and the Neoliberal University.



Ben Pink Dandelion has worked at Woodbrooke for 30 years and has written widely on Quaker history, theology and sociology. He gave the 2014 Swarthmore Lecture and has written other devotional texts for Friends. He worships with Clitheroe Quaker Meeting. He directs the work of the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies at Woodbrooke and is Professor of Quaker Studies at the University of Birmingham, and Research Fellow at the University of Lancaster.



Stuart Master coordinates the history and theology area of Woodbrooke's programmes and offers learning opportunities that explore the roots of the Quaker way, its theology, spirituality and relationship with other traditions.



Tracey Martin coordinates Woodbrooke's courses on peace, social justice and the climate crisis. She runs courses in all these areas and has a particular interest in the decolonisation of witness work. She also has an interest in the relationship between creativity and spirituality, and poetry. She worked for many years in international development, mainly in South-East Asia running programmes in education, health, governance and supporting civil society. She is a poet and writer.



Mark Russ is Programmes Coordinator for Worship and Spirituality. His interests include spiritual practice and music, the Bible, apocalyptic literature, hope, modern Christian theology, and the beginnings of Liberal Quakerism. Mark came to Quakers in his late teens, and spent a decade as a music teacher in Birmingham and London. He holds an MA in Systematic and Philosophical Theology from the University of Nottingham. His first book, 'Quaker Shaped Christianity', is published by Christian Alternative Books in 2022.



Rachael Swancott coordinates our courses on all aspects of Quaker community which includes our courses on Quaker roles. Rachael has a particular interest in working with Friends to be an Anti-Racist faith group

and inclusivity and diversity in our communities in general. She is a life-long Friend who is passionate about nurturing our meetings and building strong, lasting communities for Friends to thrive together.



Rhiannon Grant is a lifelong Quaker who enjoys challenges like trying to name the ineffable or write a novel in a month. She is interested in Quaker theology, religious language, changes in meeting for worship, and our decision-making processes. She researches all these topics to run courses on them, write books about them, and support postgraduate students who research them. She is a member of Central England Area Meeting and the Book of Discipline Revision Committee in Britain Yearly Meeting.



Timothy Ashworth brings his long-term interest in spiritual experience to the work of developing and leading retreats for Woodbrooke. Events in which participants can discover for themselves how the Spirit can be a source of strength and guidance will continue to have a significant place in Woodbrooke's programme and, among other approaches, Tim's approach to the Bible and experience of dialogue with other faith traditions offers rich material for spiritual nurture.

Woodbrooke's Associate Tutors

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

Alfred Wasike is an award-winning professional Journalist in Africa. He is the General Secretary of the Friends Church Uganda Yearly Meeting, the FWCC Africa Publicity Chairperson, a Member of the FUM-Africa Board, and Communication Director at the FTC (Friends Theological College) Kaimosi Kenya where he is studying for a Bachelor's degree in Theology. He went to schools in Uganda including the prestigious Uganda Management Institute in Kampala. He won a UNESCO scholarship to study Journalism/International Relations/Russian language at Varonezh State University (1985) in Russia (then Soviet Union). He is a Senior Member of Professional Media Organisations in Africa.

Alison Lock is the author of four collections of poetry, two short story collections, a novella, as well as contributor to several anthologies. Her writing focuses on the relationship of humans and the environment, connecting an inner world with a love of nature. Her latest publication, *Lure*, Calder Valley Poetry, 2020, is about the journey to recovery from a traumatic accident (featured on BBC Radio 3 *Between the Ears*). Her experience of *Life Writing for Transformation* – a course she co-facilitates at Woodbrooke – helped her to write about the accident and the healing process.

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 Jack has been a Quaker for over a decade. He studied philosophy at London and Oxford universities, and has taught philosophy in London, Oxford and Hong Kong. As a research student at Woodbrooke, he is working on Philosophy and Quakerism.

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* (Westminster John Knox Press, 2021). Her writing has been published in *Friends Journal*, *Western Friend*, Quaker anthologies, and on www.ashleymwilcox.com

Betty Hagglund was, until recently, Woodbrooke's Librarian and Learning Resources Manager. She continues to work with the Centre for Research in Quaker Studies on postgraduate courses. Betty is particularly interested in early Quaker history and writings.

C. Wess Daniels, Ph.D. is the William R. Rogers Director of Friends Center & Quaker Studies at Guilford College, Greensboro, North Carolina. Identifying as a "convergent Friend," Wess is a bridge-builder and boundary-crosser and is interested in teaching liberating faith and practice, and the revitalization of faith traditions that work toward justice. Prior to teaching at Guilford, Wess was a "released Quaker minister" at Camas Friends Church in Washington. He is the author of, *"Resisting Empire: The Book of Revelation"* (2019) and is active in the Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival.

Catherine Putz is a Quaker, celebrant, Area Meeting Clerk, and has served as co-clerk of Central Nominations Committee.

Christine Habgood-Coote worked as a GP and medical educator. She has served as co-clerk of Central Nominations Committee.

Dana Littlepage Smith is an American who has lived in the U.K. for twenty-five years. She has published five collections of poetry: most recently, 'What Love Requires' which in part reflects on her experiences as a Quaker. 'Women Clothed With The Sun', (L.S.U. Press) her first collection speaks in the voices of ninety women from the Old and New Testaments. She has taught in prisons, universities and schools in the US and UK. Being connected to the natural world, especially being in water, helps her heart to sing!

Deborah Mitchell has a background in the Probation Service and is a registered Social Worker. She is especially interested in the potential of the Restorative model to enable dialogue about identity. She sees Restorative Practice as an expression of Quaker values.

Emma Thompson is an experienced teacher and Restorative Practitioner, she is passionate about health and wellbeing. Emma has worked in a Restorative School in Aotearoa New Zealand, inspired by leaders addressing the impacts of colonisation on student wellbeing. She sees Restorative Practice as an expression of Quaker values.

Fred Langridge is a Quaker, and writes and supports learning on LGBTQ+ inclusion.

Gill Westcott is a Quaker and has been involved with Living Witness for many years. She is a member of the Climate Psychology Alliance and is a counsellor. She has served on the QPSW Economics and Sustainability Sub-committee and the BYM Sustainability Committee. She is Co-Chair of Transition Exeter, member of an Extinction Rebellion affinity group, and a Parish Councillor in her Devon village, Cheriton Bishop.

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

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

Jasmine Piercy is a British Quaker living in Slovenia. She is a Woodbrooke Associate Tutor and serves as an elder and facilitator for the Friends network around the world. She previously coordinated the Quaker Voluntary Action working retreats programme across Europe and has a background in education and the arts.

Jeannette Tien-Wei Law is an international educator who advises students towards their best educational and career paths around the globe. An American of Chinese descent, she formerly attended the Beacon Hill Friends Meeting in Boston, Massachusetts. She currently resides in Italy, where she enjoys writing poetry and aspires to live "la bella vita."

Jenny Tipping is a candidate to be a Certified Trainer with the Centre for Nonviolent Communication. She is a Quaker, and through NVC seeks to live out the peace testimony in her personal and working life.

Joanna Frew is the Outreach Coordinator for Rethinking Security. She has worked in both campaigning and academia over the last 20 years, covering issues of peace and justice such as debt, trade, anti-militarism, globalisation and the history of the British empire. She and her partner run a house of hospitality for refused asylum seekers, living in solidarity and undertaking grass-roots community support

John Gray works as an organisational facilitator, coach and supervisor, and is an Associate at the University of York's Centre for Applied Human Rights. He attends Friargate Meeting in York.

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

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

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 <https://bravespaces.blog>

Laura J. Rediehs is Associate Professor of Philosophy and Coordinator of Peace Studies at St. Lawrence University in the USA. Her research interests include the philosophy of science and religion, Quaker epistemology, the incommensurability problem, and nonviolent conflict resolution. She is a member of the Quaker Studies Research Association, and serves on the Executive Committee of the Friends Association for Higher Education. Her Quaker Meeting is the St. Lawrence Valley Friends Meeting in Potsdam, NY.

Liz Coling has been an attender at the Prague Quaker group for many years and has recently applied for international membership of the Religious Society of Friends. Before moving to Prague she taught in adult education in London.

Lucy Aphramor is a Quaker, poet, and dietitian. They are interested in helping people make sense of food and body stories.

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 O'Connor lives in Angers, France and has been the clerk of France Yearly Meeting and serves on the Communications and Outreach Committee. He is a teacher of English as a Foreign Language and is currently teaching English to French engineering students.

Philip Austin works as Coordinator for Northern Friends Peace Board, and through this contributes to the work of the Rethinking Security outreach group. He is a member of Bolton Meeting and has worked and been active with Friends and the wider peace movement from local to international level.

Rachel Berger spent her working life trying to mitigate the impacts of the climate and ecological crises. She continues this work near home and in Quaker circles. She worked for Practical Action for many years and is an active member of Extinction Rebellion.

Rajan Naidu of Stourbridge Meeting is also attached to Hampstead Meeting. He is a committed communicator and campaigner for social justice and environmental justice. Rajan has written in *The Friend* about the connections between Quaker testimonies and concern for animals. During the last year Rajan has supported the RJ Working team's learning and development in the delivery of several workshops with the goal of growing participants capabilities for 'Tackling Racism Restoratively'. He especially supported young leaders within the organisation to hold a safe and brave space for talking in depth.

Richard Drake has been a Quaker since 2002 and has held several roles at local and area meeting level including treasurer and elder. He is currently Bristol Area Meeting Clerk.

Rosemary Field has seen herself as a Quaker all of her adult life, coming into membership in the 1990s. The Equipping for Ministry course provided her a great opportunity to learn and experience more about the breadth and depth of the Quaker way. It was through EFM that she discovered a meditation method known as Centering Prayer and quickly realised that this would lie at the heart of her Quaker faith and its rootedness in Christianity.

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.

Tanya Hubbard is a creative facilitator of conflict transformation and learning. She has worked in China, the Palestinian refugee camps of Lebanon, Thailand, Uganda, inner city London and Myanmar. Her passion is in using nonviolent communication and creative approaches to enable people to re-connect compassionately with themselves and to re-humanise and re-connect with others who are different in some way or are 'the enemy'. Raised in a Quaker family in Wales, Tanya is also a certified yoga teacher and permaculture practitioner.

Therese Bentley is a Certified Trainer with the Centre for Nonviolent Communication and a qualified teacher, with a special interest in the link between spiritual and practical everyday life.

Till Geiger is a member of Disley Meeting (East Cheshire Area Meeting) and he currently serves as an Elder. For the last ten years, he has helped to organise the ECAM Young Quakers Camp at Yealand and currently serves as AM representative on Northern Friends Peace Board. He has served on BYM Library Committee and is currently one of the co-clerks of the QPSW Peace Education, Campaigning and Networking Sub-Committee. Before early retirement, he taught international history of the cold war at the University of Manchester.

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

Yvonne Estop-Wood served as co-clerk of Quaker Gender and Sexual Diversity Community and is chair of Sibyls, a support group for transgender Christians.





How to Book

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

What Happens next?

You will receive an email confirming your booking.

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

If you do not receive these emails, or have any queries, please contact learning@woodbrooke.org.uk.



WOODBROOKE

**For more information about Woodbrooke
visit our website: woodbrooke.org.uk**

T +44 (0)7562 624047 • **E** learning@woodbrooke.org.uk

Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham B29 6LJ • Reg. Charity No. 313816

Find us on:

