

The Spiritual Roots of Quaker Ways

Monday 13 July to Monday 7 September 2020

This is an exciting new learning programme delivered by Woodbrooke and commissioned by Portobello & Musselburgh Local Meeting.

In this programme, we will explore the spiritual roots of Quaker practices and concerns. When we understand the founding vision of early Friends, we can trace how the Quaker way has changed over time and consider our own experiences as Quakers today. The programme is made up of four modules. Each module includes two recorded presentations, backed up by written resources, and is rounded off with a live online webinar meeting. You may choose to meet in groups to share your responses, reflections and questions in preparation for the webinars.

Module One – Quaker Foundations

Monday 13 July to Monday 27 July

In this module we will look at the essential features of the early Quaker vision and then consider how this vision is reflected in key aspects of Quaker spirituality, including worship, vocal ministry, personal spiritual practices, discernment and testimony.

1. The Early Quaker Vision Monday 13 to Sunday 19 July

2. Spiritual Basis of Quaker Practices Monday 20 to Sunday 26 July

3. Live online webinar Monday 27 July at 7.00pm

Module Two – Quaker Testimony 1

Monday 27 July to Monday 10 August

In this module we will explore the spiritual roots of the Quaker concern for spiritual equality and peace. What was it about the early Quaker vision that enabled Friends to begin to challenge a world characterized by violence, war and rigid forms of social hierarchy? How has this changed over time?

1. Quakers and Equality Monday 27 July to Sunday 2 August

2. Quakers and Peace Monday 3 to Sunday 9 August

3. Live online webinar Monday 10 August at 7.00pm

Registered Charity No: 313816

Module Three - Quaker testimony 2

Monday 10 August to Monday 24 August

In this module we will explore the spiritual roots of the Quaker concern for economic justice and creation care. What was it about the early Quaker vision that enabled Friends to challenge injustice and visualize new ways of relating to other animals and the natural world? How has this changed over time?

1. Quakers and Economics Monday 10 to Sunday 16 August

2. Quakers and Ecology Monday 17 to Sunday 23 August

3. Live online webinar Monday 24 August at 7.00pm

Module Four – Quakers and Christianity

Monday 24 August to Monday 7 September

In this module, we will consider our roots in Christianity, and how the Quaker tradition relates to other churches. What is unique about the Quaker understanding of Christianity? How is it possible for all the diverse forms of global Quakerism today to be grounded in the early Quaker vision? Do Friends have a distinctive approach to the Bible, how have they used it, and what role does it play in Quaker faith and practice?

1. Quakers and Christianity Monday 24 to Sunday 30 August

2. Quakers and the Bible Monday 31 to Sunday 6 September

3. Live online webinar Monday 7 September at 4.00pm

Tutor: Stuart Masters



For the past eleven years, Stuart has been one of Woodbrooke's Learning and Research Team Leaders with responsibility for coordinating on-site short course programmes. His research and teaching interests focus on Quaker theology, spirituality and history, ecotheology and the relationship of the Quaker way to other traditions. Stuart regularly contributes articles and book reviews to Quaker publications such as *The Friend, The Friends Quarterly* and *Quaker Studies*. He is currently writing a book on the theology of the early Quaker minister, James Nayler.

To book, please email