



Beyond the Spirit of the Age - Revisited & Revised?

Friday 30 August - Sunday 1 September

£165 - Residential

How much has changed in the two decades since Jonathan Dale gave his prophetic Swarthmore Lecture challenging Friends to renew their social testimony? Does that challenge need updating for our time? During our time together we will reflect on how our faith asks us to engage with a society that remains both economically and politically polarised. To what extent do our lifestyles of comfort and convenience accommodate us to this world, and how might we become agents of change? Join us as we listen and learn from one another.

With Jonathan Dale & Martin Layton.

Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/beyond-the-spirit-of-the-age

'Take Time' A retreat for mental health carers

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 September

£165 - Residential

Supporting someone can be life changing, revelatory, exhausting and isolating. Look after your needs to enhance your caring. 'Take Time' is a weekend for people who care for someone who needs care because of their mental health problems. Come and meet other carers, enjoy quiet, share in optional activities, hear about rights and resources. The Retreat Benevolent Fund could give grants to those who cannot afford whatever respite care is needed by the person they support. Apply at: www.retreatyorkbfund.com

Alison Mitchell & a team of experienced Friends

Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/take-time

Gender and the Divine: learning from feminist religion

Friday 6 - Sunday 8 September

£245 - Residential

Judaism and Christianity both have strong traditions of using gendered language to describe God. This has often been masculine but, both historically and recently, there are also feminine examples. In this course we will explore ways in which feminist Christians and Jews have re-read Biblical texts, re-worked their traditions, and found resources to describe a Divine who is masculine, feminine, both, and neither. We will also take time to consider how this affects our own relationships with God.

With Rhiannon Grant

Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/gender-and-the-divine

Creativity and Ministry

Monday 16 - Wednesday 18 September

£165 - Residential

Our creativity meets the world in many different ways, but often we are too shy to use it fully. We will use the playful creation of simple physical objects to help us free our natural urge to create and consider how our ministry can be enriched. We will be using a variety of craft and natural materials, individually and as a group. As we will be spending time in the garden, participants will need a moderate degree of mobility.

With Flow Shakespeare and Joanna Godfrey-Wood.

Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/creativity-and-ministry

Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ

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Quaker Botanists

Tuesday 1 - Thursday 3 October

£285 - Residential

Would you like to find out more about three key botanists from the Quaker tapestry? Are you interested in gardens, plants and their history? By looking at the life and times of Peter Collinson, John Bartram and John Fothergill we will explore their plant introductions and gardens in the 18th century. We'll assess their legacy in gardens, parks and medicine today. You'll go away with a greater appreciation of the importance of these botanists in history and how they continue to inspire us today.

With Letta Jones. Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/the-space-between-us

Stepping out of Bounds: The early Christian Breakthrough

Monday 28 - Thursday 31 October

£315 - Residential

At the heart of early Christianity is a breakthrough, an experience of expansion into new possibilities. In the New Testament this experience is described as a manifestation of the Spirit, God's creative power, operating in a new and unexpected way. People felt inspired, able to step out beyond the boundaries that had previously determined how they lived. This course explores both this breakthrough but also the conflict that had limited it even before the writing of the New Testament documents.

With Timothy Ashworth

Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/stepping-out-of-bounds

Explaining Quaker Theology - online course

Thursday 3 October - Thursday 7 November

£72 - Online

This course is an opportunity to engage with three theologians who have all published work that explores Quaker understandings for a wider audience. In Rex Ambler's book *The Quaker Way: a Rediscovery* (Winchester, UK/Washington, USA: Christian Alternative, 2013), he aims to 'communicate what it means to be Quaker and to follow the Quaker way'. In *Testimony: Quakerism and Theological Ethics* (London: SCM Press, 2015), Rachel Muers attempts to show 'how Quaker ways of living and acting relate to theology, to ways of thinking and reasoning about God and all things in relation to God'. In *Boundless: the Early Christian Breakthrough* (awaiting publication), Timothy Ashworth explores aspects of the lives of Jesus and the earliest Christians in ways that reveal the closeness of early Christian experience to Quaker understandings of worship and discernment.

This course involves a time commitment of approximately three hours per week

With Timothy Ashworth, Rachel Muers, and Rex Ambler.

Book via: www.woodbrooke.org.uk/explaining-quaker-theology/

To book a place on any course just click on the link with the course description to book online. Alternatively you can email enquiries@woodbrooke.org.uk or call 0121 472 5171.

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