



## Galatians: an online course

*Thursday 14 - Thursday 28 May 2019*

*£36*

'For freedom Christ has set us free'. This is the heart of Paul's teaching in this letter. Here is Paul's most radical expression of how the experience of the Spirit can transform how people think of themselves and treat each other. In this online course we will tackle the letter step by step, aiming to bring Paul's words alive, find connections with Quaker understandings, and better understand Paul's confidence that faith in the living word can bring a new creation.

## God in Jewish Tradition

*Friday 31 May - Sunday 2 June 2019*

*£245- Residential*

What images of God can one find in Jewish tradition: in the Bible, in Jewish liturgy, in the prophetic literature, in Jewish poetry, in the mystical tradition? During this weekend participants will have an opportunity to explore how God is portrayed and 'imagined' within Jewish texts spanning more than 2500 years. And through discussion and personal reflection we will consider how such images of divinity resonate with participants' own spiritual journeys.

## Exploring the Development of Early Quaker Theology

*Friday 14 - Sunday 16 June 2019*

*£165 - Residential*

To what extent were early Quakers influenced by the religious ideas that surrounded them? Drawing on Madeleine Ward's recent research, we will explore developments in Quaker theology during the seventeenth century. As well as considering the overall shape of the early Quaker vision, we will give particular attention to changing understandings of "the Light within". How much of this remains relevant in the modern world, and how might it inform our faith and practice today?

## A Time to Speak Out: a guided bible study

*Friday 21 - Sunday 23 June 2019*

*£165 - Residential*

To what extent were early Quakers influenced by the religious ideas that surrounded them? Drawing on Madeleine Ward's recent research, we will explore developments in Quaker theology during the seventeenth century. As well as considering the overall shape of the early Quaker vision, we will give particular attention to changing understandings of "the Light within". How much of this remains relevant in the modern world, and how might it inform our faith and practice today?

## Bible Study for Quakers

*Monday 8 July - Wednesday 28 August 2019*

*£54*

Do you find the Bible intimidating but intriguing? Do you want to engage your meeting in Bible study? This course will help you to find your way around the Bible and understand the distinctive Quaker approach to scripture. You will closely study several Biblical texts and reflect with others on your experience of the Bible.



## **Julian of Norwich: 'There was a treasure in the earth which the Lord loved.'**

*Friday 16 - Sunday 18 August 2019*

*£245 - Residential*

Julian of Norwich: 'There was a treasure in the earth which the Lord loved.' Julian's writings are complex and deep but their meanings are beautiful in their simplicity. We are the treasure. The course will aim to engage with Julian, the woman, her life and spirituality, offering the opportunity to explore her words through reflection, music and laughter. Discover how the message of her Revelations for the world is as relevant today as it was in the 14th Century. There will be times to be quiet, times to discuss and times to Simply Be.

## **Mindfully Together**

*Sunday 25 - Friday 30 August 2019*

*£545 - Residential*

For 13 years, Woodbrooke has hosted retreats drawing on the Zen Buddhist teaching of Thich Nhat Hanh. We will welcome back Sister Annabel Laity supported by members of the Community of Interbeing. Discover how mindfulness of the present moment can bring peace and happiness. While the practice is accessible and guidance will be offered to those with little or no experience, it is not without demand. You will enjoy times of silence, walking meditation in Woodbrooke's beautiful grounds and specially prepared vegetarian food.

## **Exploring the Old Testament**

*Friday 30 August - Sunday 1 September 2019*

*£165 - Residential*

Does the Old Testament puzzle, perplex or put you off? Come and discover some of its riches and beauty, as well as its agonised responses to suffering and violence. We will explore the contexts in which the Hebrew Bible was written, and then trace the different ways in which it has been interpreted in Jewish and Christian traditions. The tutor was commended by a local Quaker meeting for "Profound insights with a lightness of touch".

## **Developing a Practice of Christian Meditation @ Swarthmoor Hall**

*Friday 13 - Sunday 15 September 2019*

An introduction to an ancient Christian way of prayer beyond words, as taught in our time by Benedictine monks John Main (1926 – 82) and Laurence Freeman (1951-). The emphasis will be on practising meditation together and beginning to understand its rationale, its effect on our daily lives, our understanding of ourselves, of each other and of God.

**Woodbrooke, 1046 Bristol Road, Birmingham, B29 6LJ**

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