

Charney Manor

A Quaker retreat and conference centre in the heart of the Oxfordshire countryside

Programme 2020

Charney Bassett • Wantage • Oxfordshire • OX12 0EJ
Telephone: 01235 868206 • Email: admin@charneymanor.com
www.charneymanor.com

2020 programme at a glance

With its rural setting, spacious grounds and sense of history - parts of the Manor date back to the 13th Century - Charney Manor offers a supportive setting for relaxation, reflection, and renewal. We offer a warm welcome to all our guests, tempting home-cooked meals, and a unique atmosphere of peace and tranquillity.

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Facilities at Charney Manor

Conference rooms

Charney Manor has two large conference rooms, both upstairs: the Solar in the Manor and the main meeting room in The Barn (accessible by lift). Also available in the Manor are a library and a sitting room.

Accommodation

Charney Manor can accommodate 43 residential guests, 35 in (one) double, eleven twin and eleven single bedrooms. All the rooms are ensuite, except two which have dedicated bathrooms. Nine rooms are in the Manor house itself, ten are in the Vokins building, and four are in the Barn. One single room and one twin room in the Barn, both on the ground floor, are adapted for wheelchair users.

The Gilletts, a cottage in the grounds, provides self-catering accommodation for groups of eight in five bedrooms, or additional accommodation for conferences.

Catering

Residential groups are fully catered for, with arrangements made for guests with special diets. Every bedroom has facilities for making hot drinks.

Library

We have a small well-stocked library mainly focused on Quakerism and contemporary spirituality. Guests are welcome to borrow books during their stay.

Computer and internet access

A computer and printer are available in the library for guests' use. Wi-fi internet access is available throughout.

Garden and walks

As well as the three acres of garden, there are good walks locally and many places of interest nearby, including the Uffington White Horse, Wayland's Smithy and the Ridgeway, and Kelmscott Manor, the country home of William Morris.

The village pub

The friendly, family-run Chequers Inn is a short walk from us, and has a delicious home-cooked menu.



Programme useful information

The Charney Manor programme

This programme seeks to nourish the spirit through silence, discussion, listening deeply, and exploring chosen themes with both mind and heart. All are open to everyone, including those of other denominations and faiths or with no religious affiliation.

We also offer attendees an option to have a few extra days of relaxation on a bed-and-breakfast or fully catered basis.

Booking

To check availability and to request the specific booking form, call us on 01235 868206, or visit our website. To secure a place, we ask for a non-refundable deposit and completed form.

For a provisional booking, please contact the office: the booking will be confirmed on receipt of your deposit and booking form.

Payment

Please make cheques payable to 'Charney Manor'. We accept credit and debit cards. Contact the office in order to make a payment.

Bursaries

Bursaries of up to 50% are available (one bursary per person per year); please apply when booking. Regrettably no bursaries are available for the 'Experiencing' event.

Contact

Retreat administrator: Nicola Cooper.

Please contact us for further information: sales@charneymanor.com.



Programme in detail

13-15 March Aspects of Islam from inside and out Philip Stewart

This course ranges over Islamic civilisation in all its multi-national variety and history, and its encounters with other religions and societies from earliest times until the present.

Cost: £212 (deposit £106)

Philip Stewart has worked in Algeria in forestry and in Egypt as a prize-winning literary translator. More information on Philip's life and works can be found at: sites.google.com/site/granphi618

13-15 March Creative writing: the wonder of trees Rebecca Hubbard

This course provides a springboard for creative work and ideas inspired by trees and what they mean to us. We will go into the lovely gardens at Charney Manor to observe and be among the trees; we will also explore the wonderful trees that flourish within, drawing on myths, our imaginations and memories.

Anyone is welcome who would like to explore the theme of trees through observation, images, texts and discussion. No experience of creative writing is necessary.

Cost: £212 (deposit £106)

*Rebecca currently teaches creative writing classes and runs independent workshops on a variety of themes. Her anthology, *The Garden of Shadow and Delight* (Cinnamon Press), consists of short 'meditations' on gardens. Her poetry has appeared in various magazines and she worked for several years as a freelance journalist.*



Programme in detail

17-19 April Finding out about Quakers: a retreat for enquirers Members of the Quaker Quest team

A basic introduction for those interested in finding out more about Quakers, who may or may not have attended a Quaker Meeting for Worship. Come and learn about the Quaker way, about Quaker beliefs and the values by which Quakers live their lives. This is an opportunity to ask any questions you have about Friends whilst enjoying fellowship with others in the delightful setting of the Manor and its grounds.

Cost: £212 (deposit £106)

11-15 May (mid-week) Experiencing Shakespeare John Lampen and colleague

An opportunity to experience spring days at Charney Manor and Stratford-upon-Avon and enjoy seeing plays at the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. At Charney there will be opportunities for worship and to explore the themes of the plays we shall see, celebrating how Shakespeare explores the human condition. The fee includes theatre tickets and coach fares.

Plays: Tuesday 12 May: **A Winter's Tale** (7.15pm), Royal Shakespeare Theatre; and Thursday 14 May: **Comedy of Errors** (1.15pm) Royal Shakespeare Theatre.

Cost: £480 (deposit £240)

John Lampen teaches the creative handling of conflict in Britain and overseas. His books include 'Mending Hurts' and 'Findings: poets and the crisis of faith'.

Please note: the Experiencing Shakespeare retreat involves a certain amount of walking. If you are unsure as to your ability to participate, please contact Charney Manor at sales@charneymanor.com, or phone 01235 868206

Programme in detail

4-6 September

Finding out about Quakers: a retreat for enquirers

Members of the Quaker Quest team

A basic introduction for those interested in finding out more about Quakers, who may or may not have attended a Quaker Meeting for Worship. Come and learn about the Quaker way, about Quaker beliefs and the values by which Quakers live their lives. This is an opportunity to ask any questions you have about Friends whilst enjoying fellowship with others in the delightful setting of the Manor and its grounds.

Cost: £212 (deposit £106)

21-23 October

Weaving death back into life

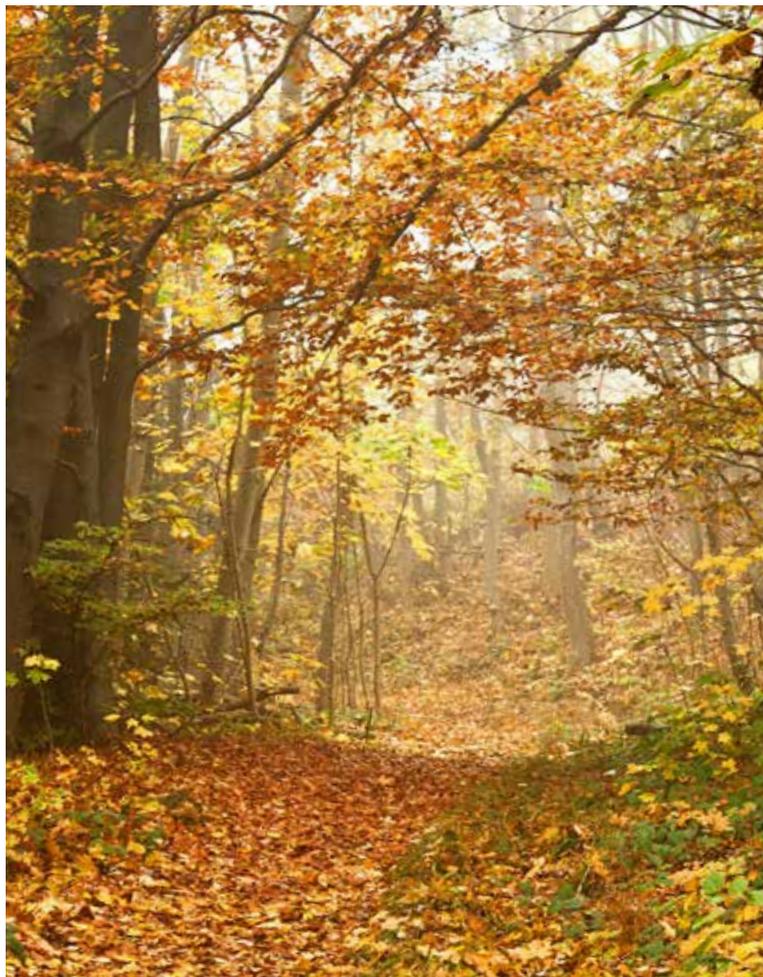
Liz Rothschild and Rose-Anne O'Hare

Death and grief are mysterious and highly individual experiences. How can we become more skilled in preparing ourselves and supporting others in a society that still gives us very little guidance? A chance to approach these subjects both practically and emotionally. Discover the gifts that can come from knowing our time on earth is finite. We will work alone and in the whole group, and draw on practical and creative exercises and silence to explore this territory. There will be a parlour performance of *Outside the Box* on Friday evening and a visit to Westmill Woodland burial ground on the Saturday.

£162 (deposit £81)

Liz founded Westmill Woodland burial ground. She set up the Kicking the Bucket festival in Oxford and performs her show Outside the Box nationally. She is a writer, performer and celebrant.

Rose-Anne has been an NHS therapist, bereavement counsellor and trainer. She leads bereavement groups, and hosts death cafés and other workshops on death and dying.



Programme in detail

6-8 November

Finding out about Quakers: membership weekend

Members of the Quaker Quest team

This weekend is for people who have been around Quakers for a while and want to explore further. Is there any difference between being an attender at Quaker Meetings and becoming a member? Would membership of the Religious Society of Friends change anything? This is an opportunity to explore what Quakerism means to you, whilst enjoying fellowship with others in the delightful setting of the Manor and its grounds.

Cost: £212 (deposit £106)

20-22 November

Slowing down to stillness

Alex Wildwood

As we approach the end of the year, and before 'the festive season' makes its demands of us, this is a chance to take time out of our often busy lives. We will consciously pause, and let the tranquillity of Charney Manor help us connect with the spaciousness and stillness within.

Cost: £212 (deposit £106)

Alex Wildwood is an author and educator who is passionate about the interplay between Quaker tradition and contemporary spirituality.

Charney Manor

a quiet place to stay

Self catering

The Gilletts

Escape the hustle and bustle of city life and enjoy the peace and tranquillity of the countryside with a stay at Charney Manor. We offer comfortable en-suite accommodation with tea- and coffee-making facilities.

Special dietary requirements can be catered for.

The library can be used by guests, if it is available, as can the three acres of gardens.

There are two options, both subject to availability:

Full board

This option includes three meals: a continental breakfast, a two-course lunch and a two-course supper, each with a choice of two desserts.

Cost: £99 per person per night

Bed and breakfast

This option includes a continental breakfast.

Single occupancy: £55 per room per night

Two twins/doubles: £65 per room per night

Triple/family room: £90 per room per night

Special offer for Quaker Meetings

January - April, August and December.

Quaker Meetings are invited to experience Charney Manor's excellent facilities. Groups of at least 20 adults (aged 14+) can enjoy a two-night weekend or mid-week stay, including all meals, at a reduced price and with no charge for children aged up to 14 who share a room with their parents.

Cost: £180 per person for a minimum of 20 adults (aged 14+). Additional guests at £100 per person. Offer available January-March and October-December.

Terms and conditions apply.



The Gilletts

This charming detached cottage in the grounds of Charney Manor provides a quiet space for rest and relaxation. It is available for use on a self-catering basis by families and groups of up to eight people.

The cottage consists of five bedrooms (one twin, two twin/double and two singles), a living room with TV and DVD player, games and books. There is a separate dining room, fully equipped kitchen with a dishwasher, washer/dryer, shower room, bathroom and downstairs toilet. A lovely outdoor seating area overlooks our sheep paddock.

For further information, availability and prices please visit our website or alternatively contact Nicola Cooper on **01235 868206**, or email on admin@charneymanor.com.

Charney Manor

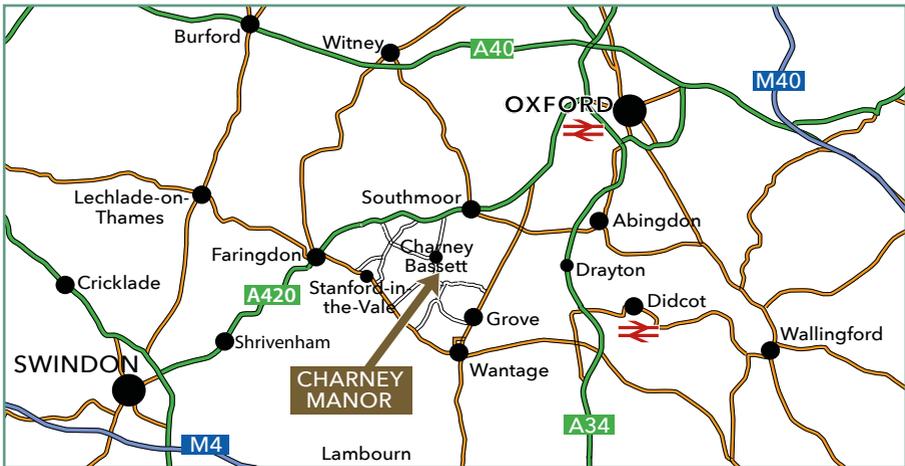
Charney Manor is used by a wide variety of organisations such as businesses, educators, charities and faith groups, who meet for conferences and training; by musicians, artists and writers, who seek a peaceful and inspiring place to work together; and by people involved in conflict resolution and international affairs, who need a quiet and private venue in which to talk.

To check rates and availability, please telephone or email

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Charney Manor is easily accessible by car from the M40 and the M4. It is 12 miles from Oxford and from Didcot railway stations. There are bus services from Oxford to Southmoor or Wantage. Taxis can be arranged to pick up from these destinations.

Charney Manor is a registered charity, owned by the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers), and managed by an independent committee of Trustees:

Ron Barden - Northampton Meeting
Barney Rosedale - Marlborough Meeting
Tessa Brown - Lewes Meeting
Philip Brown - Wellingbrough Meeting
Stewart Jeffrey - Headington Meeting

Nigel Braithwaite - Burford Meeting
Ruth Whitehouse - Broad Campden Meeting
Jill Green - Oxford Meeting
Catherine Hilliard - Oxford Meeting