

# *Charney Manor*

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

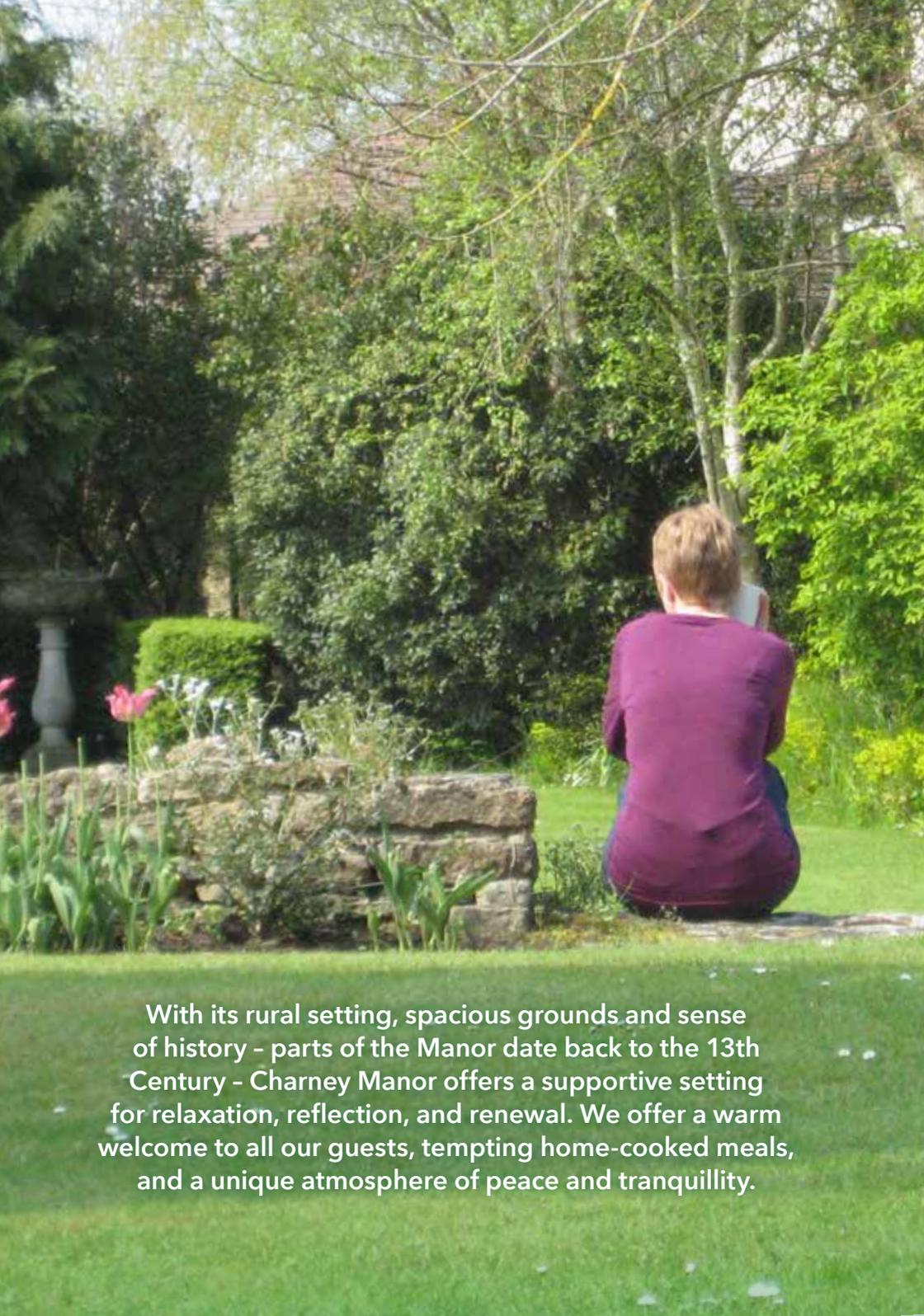


## Programme 2017

Charney Bassett • Wantage • Oxfordshire • OX12 0EJ  
Telephone: 01235 868206 • Email: [admin@charneymanor.com](mailto:admin@charneymanor.com)  
[www.charneymanor.com](http://www.charneymanor.com)

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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.

# 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

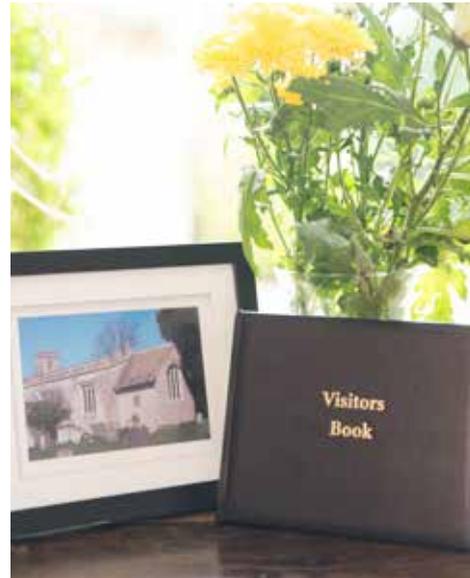
As well as the three acres of garden, there are good walks locally and many places of interest nearby, including the Uffington White Horse, Wayland's Smithy and the Ridgeway, and Kelmscott Manor, the country home of William Morris.

## The village pub

The friendly, family-run Chequers is a short walk from us.

## Wednesday worship

A Quaker meeting for worship is held in the library from 8.00pm to 8.30pm each Wednesday evening (except in August). All are welcome.



# 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.

## Booking

For a provisional booking, please contact the office: the booking will be confirmed on receipt of your deposit and booking form. Please telephone first to check availability and to request the specific booking forms for 'Experiencing Shakespeare' or 'Experiencing the Cotswolds'.

To secure a place, we ask for a non-refundable deposit and completed booking form. The form is available by phoning 01235 868206, or can be downloaded from our website.

## 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 Shakespeare and Experiencing the Cotswolds events.



# Programme in detail

## February 10-12 Writing poems as a way of listening; listening as a way in to writing poetry

Philip Gross

Philip Gross' own poetry is known for its close attention to the world around us: poetry that listens as much as it speaks. Philip will share some of that poetry, and other writing he admires, as a way of opening the door to writing of your own.

Cost: £195 (deposit £95)

*Philip Gross is a poet, playwright, librettist and writer for children. He won the T S Eliot Prize in 2009, and Wales Book of The Year in 2010. Philip is Professor of Creative Writing at the University of South Wales. [www.philipgross.co.uk](http://www.philipgross.co.uk)*

## March 10-12 Easter stories

Mark Russ

The Easter season contains many meanings and associations, from the sight of boxing hares to the smell of hot cross buns. Through discussion, small group study and worship we will share what Easter means for us personally, reflect on a selection of seasonal stories and wrestle with challenging aspects of the Jesus narrative.

Cost: £195 (deposit £95)

*Mark Russ is a tutor at Woodbrooke Quaker Study Centre. His interests include intentional community and New Monasticism, music and worship, the Bible and apocalyptic spirituality. He blogs at [jollyquaker.com](http://jollyquaker.com)*



# Programme in detail

## April 21-23 Finding out about Quakers: a weekend 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: £195 (deposit £95)

## May 8-12 Experiencing Shakespeare

John Lampen

An opportunity to experience summer days at Charney and Stratford-upon-Avon and enjoy seeing plays in the dramatically refurbished Swan and Royal Shakespeare theatres. 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; also a workshop given by Jane Lapotaire, RSC Associate Artist (subject to professional engagements). Includes theatre tickets and coach fares.

Plays: Tues 7.15pm Julius Caesar (Royal Shakespeare Theatre); Thurs 1.15pm Antony & Cleopatra (Royal Shakespeare Theatre) and 7.30pm Vice Versa (Swan Theatre).

Cost: £500 (deposit £250)

*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'.*

# Programme in detail

## June 23-25 Nature and us - the issues

Andrea Hudspeth

The course will aim to show the interactions between the natural world and humankind, and the problems which can arise.

There will be daytime and evening walks to experience the local nature, and these will be followed by discussions on the observations made in the field. There will also be case studies of our conflicts with nature.

Cost: £195 (deposit £95)

*Andrea Hudspeth is an ecologist based in the Scottish Highlands. She is a bird ringer and is involved in raptor study and bat groups.*



## July 17-21 Experiencing the Cotswolds

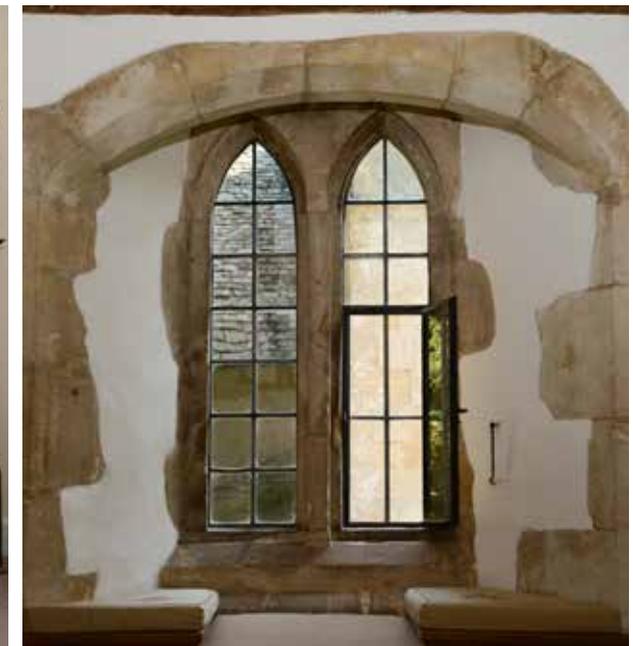
Gillian Peaston

Enjoy the hospitality of Charney and explore some of the wonderful buildings and countryside in the Cotswolds Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Visits are planned to Bourton-on-the-Water; Burford - where the annual Levellers' Day commemorates the three Levellers' leaders imprisoned in the church and executed by Cromwell's troops; Kelmscott Manor - the country home of William Morris, which contains original Arts and Crafts furniture, sketches by Morris and portraits by Dante Gabriel Rossetti; Chedworth Roman villa; and Sudeley Castle and gardens - where Katherine Parr, the last of Henry VIII's six wives, is buried in the 15th-Century chapel.

This will be a full and varied week highlighting some of the gems that the Cotswolds has to offer.

Cost: £480 (deposit £240)

*Gillian Peaston is Manager at Charney Manor.*



# Programme in detail



## September 8-10 Write that novel you've always been planning

Debrah Martin

This course provides an introduction to the art of novel-writing and the essential skills an author uses to craft an engaging story. It will take participants from finding inspiration, through the basic techniques with practical exercises and the invaluable opportunity to share work completed on the course and receive mentoring feedback directly from the tutor. The course is supported by information and resource sheets.

Cost: £195 (deposit £95)

*Debrah is an award-winning author, writing across three genres in three pen names. In 2014 she was the Chair of the Wantage Literary Festival. [www.debrahmartin.co.uk](http://www.debrahmartin.co.uk)*

## November 10-12 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: £195 (deposit £95)

# Programme in detail

## November 24-26 A mystery deeper than words

Alex Wildwood

Quakers today reflect the diversity of society at large. Some of us find traditional God language deeply meaningful, others seek new ways of describing the mystery at the heart of life. This is a chance to listen respectfully to one another, to reflect on our own spiritual experience, and to explore the significance of our current spiritual diversity.

Cost: £195 (deposit £95)

*Alex Wildwood gave the 1999 Swarthmore lecture, 'A Faith to call our Own' and is co-author of 'Rooted in Christianity, Open to New Light: Quaker spiritual diversity'. If forced to label himself, he would say he was an evolutionary.*



# Charney Manor

## a quiet place to stay

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: £90 per person per night

### Bed and breakfast

This option includes a continental breakfast.

Single ensuite: £55 per room per night

Double ensuite: £75 per room per night

Twin ensuite: £85 per room per night

Double Mobility: £100 per room per night

Triple/Family room: £105 per room per night

These are our standard room rates, however, there are also reduced non refundable room rates available. To check rates and availability, please visit our website: [www.charneymanor.com](http://www.charneymanor.com), and click on the 'book now' button on the home page.

### Special offer for Quaker Meetings

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: £150 per person for a minimum of 20 adults (aged 14+). Additional guests at £75 per person. Offer available January-March and October-December.

Terms and conditions apply.



# Self catering

## The Gilletts

### 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 (three twin and two single), a living room with TV and DVD player, games and books. There is a separate dining room, fully equipped kitchen with a dishwasher, a shower room, a bathroom and downstairs toilet. A lovely outdoor seating area overlooks our meadow garden.

All bookings for The Gilletts are handled by Wyndham Vacation Rentals, 0845 268 1874.

For prices and availability, please visit their website: [www.cottages4you.co.uk](http://www.cottages4you.co.uk) (property ref: 28097)

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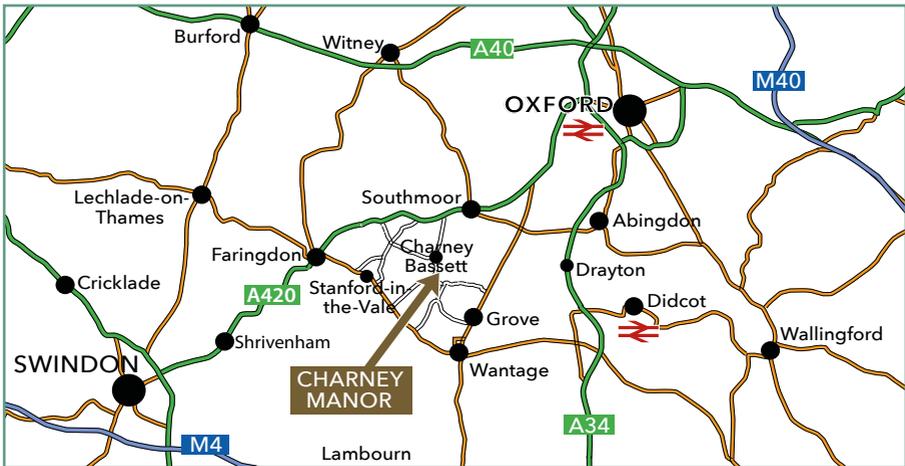
Charney Manor is used by a wide variety of organisations such as businesses, educators, charities and faith groups, who meet for conferences and training; by musicians, artists and writers, who seek a peaceful and inspiring place to work together; and by people involved in conflict resolution and international 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  
Chris Chamberlain - Forest of Dean Meeting  
Tessa Brown - Lewes Meeting  
Barbara Pensom - Charlbury Meeting  
Sue Douglas - Faringdon Meeting*

*Barney Rosedale - Marlborough Meeting  
Hazel Townesend - Faringdon Meeting  
John Hayes - Wokingham Meeting  
Jenny Buffery - Oxford Meeting*