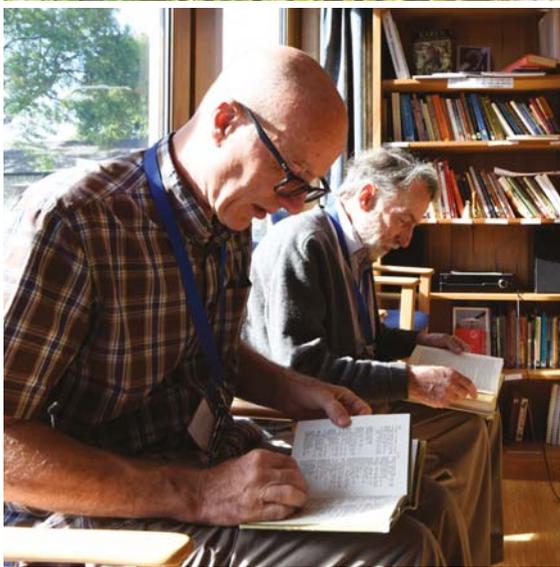


IN FOX'S FOOTSTEPS: PLANNING 1652 COUNTRY QUAKER PILGRIMAGES





Photos | cover & this page
Sasha Bosbeer

Why come on a Quaker pilgrimage?

"If you are new to Quakerism, there can be no better place to begin to explore what it may mean for us than the place in which it began.

Go to the beautiful Meeting Houses one finds dotted throughout the Westmorland and Cumbrian countryside and spend time in them, soaking in the atmosphere of peace and calm, and you will feel refreshed. Worship with Quakers there and you may begin to feel changed by the experience.

What you will find is a place where people took the demands of faith seriously and were transformed by the experience. In letting themselves be changed, they helped make possible some of the great changes that happened to the world between the sixteenth and the eighteenth centuries."

Roy Stephenson, extracts from '1652 Country: a land steeped in our faith', *The Friend*, 8 October 2010.

Being part of an organised 'open' pilgrimage

Swarthmoor Hall organises two 5-day pilgrimages every year in June/July and August/September which are open to individuals, couples, or groups of Friends.

The pilgrimages visit most of the early Quaker sites and allow individuals to become part of an organised pilgrimage and worshipping group as the journey unfolds. A minibus is used to travel to the different sites. Each group has an experienced Pilgrimage Leader. These pilgrimages are full board in ensuite accommodation.

Planning your own pilgrimage

Many meetings and smaller groups choose to arrange their own pilgrimage with the support of the pilgrimage coordination provided by Swarthmoor Hall, on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting. In doing so each group needs to consider a number of questions:

- How many people will be in our party?
- Who is the main organiser/contact person?
- What style of accommodation would work best for the needs of the group?
- Do we need catering?
- What is our budget?
- How many days can we spend doing the pilgrimage?
- Are there any particular sites or places we wish to include in the pilgrimage?
- Do we need transport?

For more detailed information regarding options please see page 4.

Venues

Swarthmoor Hall is the cradle of the Quaker movement, home of Margaret Fell and later George Fox. Early Friends met here to worship and they returned for hospitality and spiritual renewal. This tradition remains today.

It offers mostly ensuite accommodation for up to 26 people, in single, twin and double rooms. Accessible rooms are available. For more details please email for a room list using info@swarthmoorhall.co.uk or visit our website www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk.

Other venues for consideration:

Glenthorne Guest House and Conference Centre, Grasmere | www.glenthorne.org

Rookhow Quaker Meeting House, Grizedale | www.rookhowcentre.co.uk

Airton Friends Meeting House and Barn | www.airtonbarn.org.uk



Transport

Many of the roads which lead to the historic sites are narrow country lanes which can be difficult and tiring to navigate especially for Friends who are unfamiliar with the area. It may be worth considering a guide or driver for your pilgrimage. They are also able to estimate the average journey times to Quaker sites – often much longer than one might anticipate. Options include:

For small groups

- Self-drive – car or mini-bus
- Self-drive, with local Friend as tour guide at each venue (needs to be pre-booked)

For larger groups

- Mini-bus hire
- Coach hire – needs to be booked well in advance

Typical 1652 Country Pilgrimage itineraries

This table shows typical itineraries for 3-5 day Quaker Pilgrimages based at and organised by Swarthmoor Hall.

The itineraries assume that Friends will arrive on the first day in the late afternoon and leave after lunch on the final day of the pilgrimage.

3 DAYS	4 DAYS	5 DAYS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and introduction to the pilgrimage • Getting acquainted with other pilgrims • Meeting for worship in Great Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and introduction to the pilgrimage • Getting acquainted with other pilgrims • Meeting for worship in Great Hall 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and introduction to the pilgrimage • Getting acquainted with other pilgrims • Meeting for worship in Great Hall
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clitheroe QMH - <i>with talk on early Quaker history</i> • Pendle Hill • Brigflatts QMH 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clitheroe QMH - <i>with talk on early Quaker history</i> • Pendle Hill • Time for worship/ reflection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clitheroe QMH - <i>with talk on early Quaker history</i> • Pendle Hill • Time for worship/ reflection
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swarthmoor Hall • Swarthmoor QMH • Sunbrick Burial Ground • Departure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigflatts QMH • Firbank Fell • Quaker Tapestry Kendal 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brigflatts QMH • Firbank Fell • Quaker Tapestry Kendal
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swarthmoor Hall • Swarthmoor QMH • Sunbrick Burial Ground • Departure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • St Mary's Church and morning in Ulverston • Lunch at the Hall • Sunbrick Burial Ground • Manjushri Centre • Time for worship/ reflection
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swarthmoor Hall • Swarthmoor QMH • Departure

What do we do next?

Swarthmoor Hall organises the above pilgrimages on behalf of Britain Yearly Meeting, with the support of a wide group of Friends and other meeting houses in the region. To book or make an enquiry please contact the **Pilgrimage Co-ordinator** on **01229 583204** or email **info@swarthmoorhall.co.uk**. There is a pilgrimage admin fee of £15 per person.

If you are interested in a pilgrimage based on your own itinerary, Swarthmoor Hall can provide contact details for you to organise your own. Additional information is provided on the next two pages.

Places to visit

- **Brigflatts Quaker Meeting House** – built in 1675 (*donations appreciated*)
- **Calf Cop Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Clitheroe Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Farfield Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Firbank Fell** – on Sunday 13 June 1652 George Fox was invited to preach to the Seekers there and from a rock on the open hillside preached to 'above a thousand people' – (*no charge*)
- **Lancaster Quaker Meeting House** – dating from 1708 – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Tour of Lancaster castle with guide** – early Friends imprisoned here included George Fox and Margaret Fell. (*takes 1.5 hours, for entry charge information visit www.lancastercastle.com*)



Brigflatts QMH



Firbank Fell



Quaker Tapestry

- **Quaker Tapestry** – Journey through the Quaker influence on the modern world and delight in the detail of the stunning needlework and the craftsmanship involved in its creation. (*for entry charge visit www.quaker-tapestry.co.uk*)
- **Rookhow Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Settle Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Skipton Quaker Meeting House** – built 1693 (*donations appreciated*)
- **Swarthmoor Hall** – see 'Venues' for more information. (*visit www.swarthmoorhall.co.uk*)
- **Swarthmoor Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)
- **Yealand Quaker Meeting House** – (*donations appreciated*)

Other options/add-ons

For Friends returning to the area new pilgrimage routes can be planned to include less frequently-visited sites. With all pilgrimages there are other options or add-ons that can be included in a tour depending on the interests and ages of a group.

Walking/outdoor

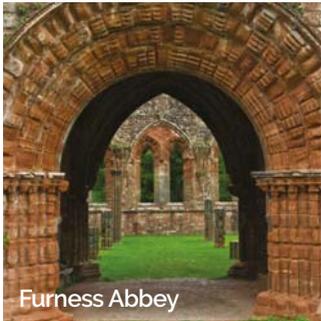
- Gummers How
- Tarn Hows
- Beacon Tarn
- High Dam
- Mountain biking in Grizedale Forest
- Canoeing on Coniston Water
- Go Ape rope course (Grizedale Forest)

Trips

- Ferry/launch from Coniston to Brantwood (John Ruskin's home)
- Dove Cottage (Wordsworth's home)

Shopping

- Sedbergh
- Kendal
- Ulverston
- Visiting towns on market days



Furness Abbey



Lake District



Manjushri

Historic Quaker meeting houses

- Airton QMH
- Colthouse QMH
- Height Burial Ground
- Preston Patrick QMH
- Rookhow QMH and Quakers Wood
- Skipton QMH
- Settle QMH

Spiritual sites

- Furness Abbey
- Swinside Stone Circle
- Cartmel Fell church
- Conishead Priory (Manjushri Buddhist centre and temple)

Further reading

Arthur Kincaid, *The Cradle of Quakerism: Exploring Quaker Roots in North West England*, Quaker Books, 2011

David and Anthea Boulton, *In Fox's Footsteps: a journey through three centuries*. DHM, 1998



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