

Spring 2020

Friends of Holland House



The Friends of Holland House support the ministry of the House, its Trustees, Warden and Staff through counsel, prayer, financial support and practical assistance

Welcome to new Friends!

We hope you will be able to join other Friends at Holland House sometime during 2020 – the programme is now online

During 2020 Friends are offered a 5% discount on their own bookings for House events and activities. Enter code FRIENDS2020 when booking online

ARE YOU MISSING OUT?

Look out for Pop-up days and events at Holland House - opportunities to enjoy time at the House at a much reduced cost! Check online, Facebook, sign up for Mail Chimp to get the latest—see page 3 for those coming up soon.

A taste of Holland House

The Friends of Holland House are taking a new approach to the Friends' Weekend this year and will be welcoming newcomers to the House to experience something of the delights that Holland House has to offer—sharing with others a taste of the hospitality, activities and atmosphere that we have experienced for ourselves over the years!

The weekend (May 1st-3rd) offers Friends (and others) the opportunity to spend time together and to share in a led retreat as well as welcoming newcomers on Saturday 2nd to a 'Taster Day'.

Lots of people who live locally, who maybe are members of churches and other faith groups or not, have heard of Holland House, know there are places like retreat houses but are not sure whether this is a place for them, are not sure what goes on there — and have not seen beyond the black and white façade on Main Street. Local people who visit the House on the Crophorne Walkabout (see page 3) often say that they had no idea what went on behind the oak door or that there were such lovely gardens, a simple Chapel, comfortable rooms and delicious food in the village. The Taster Day will give people opportunities to experience quiet times, space for reflection, creative activities, simple worship and more. Add to that the hospitality of Friends and staff, a delicious two course lunch, homemade biscuits and cakes. We hope that participants will be encouraged to come again and spread the word.

You will be receiving your invitation to the Friends' Weekend—join us if you can—you will also have a flyer about the Taster day—can you share this with someone you think will be interested—or put it on your church or community noticeboard?

The flyer has been produced and donated by our new Friends' Trustee Ginny Hefferman who has also produced a lovely glossy flyer about the **Quiet Garden Days** planned by the Friends for 2020.

Can you get these out into churches and community venues? Pick some up from Holland House and spread the word!



Our new Trustees

Three of the Trustees of Holland House are nominated by the Friends. This year we have two new Friends' Trustees - Ginny Hefferman, serving for one year initially and Rev Peter Knight, serving from 2020-2023. They join Liz Ross, serving from 2018—2021. Here Ginny introduces herself:

Hello Friends.

It's quite ironic that I became a Friend of Holland House and then a Friends' Trustee in short order, because I am a Friend in the broadest sense, being a Quaker or member of the Society of Friends. My faith journey has been like life – unplanned and evolutionary – my mother was born a Jew, disguised as a Catholic to avoid the holocaust in her native Czechoslovakia, and forced to 'convert' to CofE in order to marry in church. She lost all faith as an adult. Brought up as an angry atheist, I nevertheless became a charismatic Christian at a university rally. After many twists and turns, a career in IT and then property development, two marriages and one son, I discovered the Anglicans (a guitar-wielding vicar) and was in the early stages of pioneer ministry training when personal trauma and mental breakdown shook all my beliefs to the core.



I left church and went searching for new meaning and solace in many contemplative traditions including the Christian monastics, Fr Richard Rohr, the World Community for Christian Meditation, Buddhist meditative circles and yoga. In the end I decided that faith is a journey and we can only be "seekers" after the Source of wholeness and holiness. I believe in a Universal God who is within us all and guides us to goodness if we ask. I have found that the Quakers help me stay open to Light wherever and however defined.

I haven't worked since my breakdown so I volunteer where led: in prisons, for refugees, in InterFaith, LGBTQ++, museums & galleries that offer therapeutic support, and retreat houses. I enjoy being a Welcomer, being a Friend, and opening doors to people in mental and identity crisis. My hobbies are designing posters, playing the piano & singing, walking, DIY, interior design and good dark chocolate.

Ginny Hefferman



The Holland House Facebook page is a great place to keep up with what is happening on a day to day basis at the House—even what guests are having for lunch! Find reminders about upcoming events and hear about the latest Pop-up days.

Even if you are not on Facebook yourself you can go straight to the Holland House page; add <https://www.facebook.com/hollandhousecrophorne/> to your bookmarks/

Have you explored the Holland House kitchen garden recently?

Last year gardener Julian with help from experienced gardener volunteer, Joanne Lines, contributed significantly to the vegetables and fruit we all enjoyed at Holland House. The outdoor garden is now fully productive and supplemented with the old greenhouse and, now, a new polytunnel to replace the old tunnel which was no longer viable for growing.. This will allow us to start growing a wider variety of fruit and veg in line with our aspirations to improve and extend our vegetarian / vegan dishes, as well as providing home-grown veg in more traditional dishes.



Holland House will be helping to launch a new project called **Healthy Healing Hubs**. This is a vision of the Church (particularly Church buildings and congregations) getting directly involved in well-being initiatives for their local communities by being a 'healthy healing hub'.

Revd Canon Dr Gillian Straine, Director of The Guild of Health and St Raphael has booked a weekend at Holland House this year to help launch the project and the retreat will include Yoga for Christians workshops led by Ian Spencer.

Find out more about the Healthy Healing Hubs project at <https://gohealth.org.uk/healthy-healing->



Holland House Pop- Ups

Pop Ups are a great way for Holland House to fill in the odd day when not much is happening at the House and gives us the opportunity for a last minute, cheaper, day, meal, or even overnight stay - why not pop-in to a POP UP. Here are three coming up very soon...

Saturday 7th March - Pop-up Retreat - 24hr stay for two from afternoon tea Saturday to after Sunday lunch —twin room £140

Sunday 8th March—Pop-up Sunday Lunch—£12

Wednesday 11th March—Come and enjoy an uninterrupted day reading a book, writing a poem, enjoying a nice walk, knitting, catching up with a friend – whatever you want to do to feel refreshed.

CROPTHORNE WALKABOUT

This year the Crophorne Walkabout will be held on Sunday 24th and Monday 25th May (corona virus permitting!). Holland House will be open to visitors on **Monday 25th** and volunteers will be welcome to help serve refreshments and so on. If you can help please contact Margaret Hawkins - mhawkins459@btinternet.com or phone 01386 860518



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Be a Friend to Holland House

- Come along to programme events
- Wear one of the Friends of Holland House badges (available from Reception) when you are in the House and tell others about us
- Sign up for a poster to display in your church or organisation
- Volunteer at Holland House - see the Friends' pages on the website

Contact Friends of Holland House via Holland House or friends@hollandhouse.org

See the latest news of the Friends on the House website:
www.hollandhouse.org

Click on [Friends of Holland House](#) for the Friends' pages

SPRING AT HOLLAND HOUSE

MARCH Tuesday 17th March	Praying Differently - for folk looking for a richer experience of prayer. Small group up to four people. 10am—4pm, £40 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday 19th March	Yoga for Christians 10am—4pm £40 including lunch and refreshments
APRIL Thursday 16th	Richard Rohr Meditation, 'Transformative Dying' 9.30am—4pm £40 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday 16th	Quiet Garden Day (run by the Friends), £18 to include sandwich lunch and refreshments
Saturday 25th	Spiritual Experiences of Light with Marianne Rankin, 10am—4pm , £40 including lunch and refreshments
MAY Friday 1st	Friends of Holland House Committee - open to all Friends 2pm - prayers in Chapel @ 1.45pm
MAY Friday 1st—Sunday 3rd	Friends Weekend - 'Inside Out—Outside In' - a weekend for Friends and their friends to share in fellowship, the Taster Day and a Sunday retreat - 5pm Friday to 4pm Sunday, Residential £170, non-residential £130.
Saturday 2nd	Taster Day—a day to welcome those who have not experienced a day at Holland House - 10am—4pm including lunch and refreshments, £20 (Friends £30)
Tuesday 5th	Praying Differently - for folk looking for a richer experience of prayer. Small group up to four people. 10am—4pm, £40 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday 7th	Yoga for Christians 10am—4pm £40 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday 21st	Quiet Garden Day (run by the Friends), £18 to include sandwich lunch and refreshments
JUNE Wednesday 10th	Richard Rohr Meditation, 'Non-dual Consciousness' 9.30am—4pm £40 including lunch and refreshments
Thursday 18th	Quiet Garden Day (run by the Friends), £18 to include sandwich lunch and refreshments

Book online at www.hollandhouse.org
Email enquiries@hollandhouse.org
Phone 01386 860330

Holland House Retreat Centre, Main Street, Cropthorne,
Worcestershire WR10 3NB